

The Playground

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The World at Play

"The New Society."—Dr. John H. Finley, writing in the New York Times of a visit to Walter Rathenau, recently assassinated, says, "He was first, last and always a man who approached all problems from the point of view of the spiritual values involved." Dr. Finley quotes from an early book by Rathenau which begins, "this book treats of material things but treats of them for the sake of the spirit" and ends: "We are not here for the sake of possessions, nor for the sake of power, nor for the sake of happiness; we are here that we may elucidate the divine elements in the human spirit."

Dr. Finley compares Rathenau's saying, "The final goal, the only full and final object of all endeavor upon earth is the development of the human soul" with a similar opinion voiced by Lord Haldane.

"I had spent a part of an hour, one of those late Winter afternoons beside the Thames, with Lord Haldane, and singularly enough this was almost the identical phrase he had used in discussing the problem of democracy. The greatest mind into whose presence I came in England, and the greatest with which I was to come into contact in Germany, had sighted the same goal, though they were doubtless following different paths toward it; for, as Rathenau said, the goal points out the direction, but not the path, of politics."

A Memorable Radio Message.—Speaking from Pittsburgh by radio, Sidney A. Teller said:

"We say 8 hours for school or work, 8 hours for rest and sleep, and 8 hours for play and recreation. To take those 8 leisure time hours and translate them into health, cooperation, civic spirit, and better citizenship is the biggest job and the largest opportunity that faces America. Last year, only 500 cities in America had playgrounds. There should be 5000. Last

year only 1,000,000 (one million) boys and girls were on our playgrounds daily. The attendance should be over 10,000,000 (ten million) daily. The money spent by a community for playgrounds is the best and largest investment that can be made. It is money spent for health instead of disease, for morality instead of for delinquency, for happy and normal child life, for civic beauty, for cooperation, for better citizenship. The city that has no time, or place, or money, for children's playgrounds is a very selfish, ignorant, backward city, in fact, a wicked city and one that has no place in America."

The National Essay Contest of the American Legion.—Through the American Legion all boys and girls of the United States and its possessions between the ages of twelve and eighteen have been given the opportunity to tell in an essay, not to exceed five hundred words, how the American Legion can best serve the nation. Cash prizes divided into \$750 for the first, \$500 for the second, and \$250 for the third, will be given the winners, to be used for scholarships in colleges designated by the winners. In each state there will be a first prize silver medal for the best essay in that state, and a bronze medal for the second best. The contest closes on October 6, 1922.

Recreation a Roundabout Way to a Job.—We know that recreation helps communities that are feeling the unemployment situation by filling surplus leisure hours with wholesome activity. But never before have we heard of recreation being the means of securing jobs for the unemployed. This is what happened in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where the situation resulting from long continued unemployment was serious. The sports promoted by the Recreation Commission kept men, who otherwise would have been wandering the streets,

interested and occupied. Baseball leagues, in particular, did wonders toward maintaining morale.

The brilliant playing of one of these leagues drew large crowds to the games in which it figured. Managers of industrial league teams heard that the best baseball was played by the "Leisure League" and went to see its games, scouting for stars to build up their own teams. The Leisure players vanished one by one. They were given good jobs in the shops so that they could play on the "Dusty" League. For a time these losses were not felt, because of the seemingly unlimited talent to draw upon, but finally so many of these young men had secured new jobs that the "Leisure League" vanished into thin air. Another argument for recreation had been written.

Mrs. Willard D. Straight Gives Cornell Social Center.—In accordance with the desire of the late Major Willard D. Straight, formerly of the J. Pierpont Morgan Company, New York City, that she do something to make Cornell "a more human place," Mrs. Straight has given Cornell a million dollar building to be used as a center for the social and recreational life of the students.

There will be a large Memorial Hall for banquets and general recreational purposes, reading rooms and billiard rooms will be provided, office facilities for student organizations and activities, and a small theatre with a seating capacity of approximately five hundred will serve as the center for the activities of the Dramatic Club.

Standard Oil Company Gives Community House.—Whiting, Indiana, has had a gift of a community house, as a memorial to the town's World War veterans. The Standard Oil Company of Indiana gave the site, and a gift toward the price of construction. The balance was made up through private gifts. Work on the building began June first and will probably be completed by fall. Community Service of Whiting will operate the center and conduct recreation activities.

Wilmington's Newest Playfield.—Another unused piece of park land in Wilmington, Delaware, has been reclaimed. Two fine diamonds and a concrete stadium capable of accommodat-

ing 5,000 spectators will give the city's baseball fans additional opportunities for the game. There is a quarter mile running track and a bandstand which will hold a band of forty pieces. In the fall the field may be used for football. Undergrowth has been cleared away from the grove at the sides of the field and fifty large picnic tables have been placed there. Later a children's playground will be built.

The grading and equipping of the field was made possible by Mr. Samuel H. Baynard, whose generosity has provided Wilmington with other recreation fields in the same district. Mr. Baynard's motto is, "Do it while you're living." He personally superintended all the work.

Salt Lake City Is Presented with a Golf Course.—"Such a present is better perhaps than endowing a University, for it will serve to keep our people and especially the boys and girls in the great outdoors and will be the means of building a finer type of citizenship." With these words the Mayor of Salt Lake City accepted the gift of an athletic field and municipal golf course given to the city by Bishop Charles N. Nibley. The dedicatory exercises included music, the flag raising, and an exhibition golf match.

For the Women and Children of Boston.—On January 4, 1921, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted a charter for The Durant Incorporated which, states The Durant Beacon, is, in so far as is known, one of the largest and most comprehensive enterprises ever planned for women.

The Durant Incorporated has as its purpose the promotion of the general welfare and the all-round development of women, girls and children. As a means of accomplishing this purpose it plans the erection of a building which will provide opportunities for recreation and for physical development, gymnastics, dramatics, concerts, a children's theatre, motion pictures, games, elective courses and classes, debates, indoor and outdoor sports and facilities of many kinds.

There is no limit for members. On January 4, 1921, there were 108 incorporators; on March 4, 1921, 204 members. A year from that date the total membership had reached the figure of 10,000.

For Toledo's Newsboys.—Mr. Raymond A. Hoyer, who has recently become Superintendent of the Toledo Newsboys' Association, writes of an interesting experiment being worked out at the Club along health lines. Arrangements have been made for a special room at the Toledo Hospital with the best possible medical and surgical attention for the members of the Club. A cooperative scheme is also being worked out with the school doctors and nurses, the district nurses, the Social Service Federation and other social agencies whereby the Association is informed of the needs of the Club members who may be known to these groups.

"Right now," writes Mr. Hoyer, "we are doing a 'land office' business in removing tonsils and adenoids. While this is scarcely a recreational activity, still it has such an important bearing on the lives of our boys that I thought it would be interesting to you."

The Toledo Newsboys' Association has been in existence for thirty years, for the past thirteen of which it has had a fine downtown Club House containing gymnasium, swimming pool, showers, kitchen, Club rooms, library, printing outfit, an adjoining play field and a complete theatre, seating 1600. Considerable income is derived from theatre rentals, although the Association reserves the use of the auditorium for Sunday entertainments and other occasions.

Youthful New Haven Races on Roller Skates.—Almost every city boy or girl is adept in the art of roller skating, but it is only recently that cities have recognized possibilities for organized sport in roller skating. Perhaps the largest and most successful series of roller skating races yet conducted are taking place in New Haven, Connecticut. The first race, a city-wide attraction, was worked up and directed by the Physical Culture Department of the Public Schools, assisted by Community Service and other local organizations.

For the speedway a well paved street running through the celebrated green right in the center of the city was obtained from the Park Commissioners. The Police Department roped it off and furnished policemen. From 9 to 12 o'clock on a Saturday morning speed races were in progress, crowds of spectators gathering. Just about as many girls as boys entered

the races, and both high schools and grammar schools were represented.

So successful did these roller skating events prove that the city has been setting aside streets for roller skating every Saturday morning from 9 to 11 o'clock. The city and Community Service cooperate in providing supervision. From 9 to 10 there is general skating, the skaters being kept rotating so that they will not collide. From 10 to 11 there are races—straightaways, relays, backward and fancy. The boys and girls are divided according to ages or weights. Each supervisor has a book in which he enters a report of each Saturday morning's activities, giving the names and addresses of winners in the various events so that they will be available when the final city championships are to be decided.

Literature for Logging Camps.—Beans and bacon and sleep cannot adequately or entertainingly fill off hours in a logging camp. The men need reading matter to help them pass their evenings and to keep them in touch with the world outside. Community Service of Aberdeen, Washington, is helping to relieve logging camp monotony by starting a drive for magazines and literature. Boxes for the collection of interesting printed material have been placed on convenient corners. Twenty-three camps are on the receiving list.

Wanted: Backyard Playgrounds.—Every idle backyard in Knoxville, Tennessee, had a chance for redemption during the summer campaign for backyard playgrounds. The municipal playgrounds could not provide play spaces for a large percentage of the city's children, so committees were appointed to secure at least one back yard in every city block. A coupon was put into the newspapers so that backyard owners who were willing to lend their land could sign on the dotted line.

A Unique Publication.—Inmates of the Walla Walla, Washington, state penitentiary have started a magazine which is an interesting revelation of prison life and psychology. It is called the Agenda, with the sub-title "things to be done."

The first Agenda includes a statement about "our work," some "family notes" and information about jute mills. There is a tribute from

Cora Wilson Stewart, the educator, as to the quality of the training given in the prison school. The work of Community Service in the prison is praised in a department of the magazine called "inside information."

A Staff Guide.—The Division of Parks and Recreation of St. Louis has issued a little booklet entitled "A Staff Guide," small enough to be easily slipped into the pocket, which is full of helpful suggestions to playground workers, though, as the foreword states, it does not represent an exhaustive analysis of duties of the playground staff. The booklet contains rules and regulations governing inter-playground games; senior boys' playground rules, boys' games, girls' games, rules for junior horse shoe pitching, kite tournaments, net handball, volley ball, athletic programs and some detailed regulations governing playground management.

Macmillan Juvenile Ladder Library.—The Macmillan Company has issued a booklet entitled "Macmillan's Juvenile Ladder Library," the purpose of which is to point out to parents a simplified plan whereby their children from the earliest ages upward may, by a judicious selection of books, know all the joys and delights of fairy wonderlands and pass onward gradually to the no less delightful realities and achievements of our every day world.

In addition to pointing out the characteristics of the children of different age groups, and the nature of the books making a special appeal to these ages, definite books are listed and information given regarding prices. Copies of the Ladder Library Catalogue may be secured by writing Macmillan Company, 64-66 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

An Aid to Americanization.—Communities which are undertaking English and citizenship classes for foreign-born adults will welcome a new pamphlet, "Suggestions for Securing and Holding Attendance of Foreign-born Adults upon Public School English and Citizenship Classes," issued by the Bureau of Naturalization, U. S. Department of Labor. Material of great practical value has been compiled from the results of public school experiences in Americanization work during the past year.

The pamphlet first gives directions for a survey to discover the number, location and edu-

cational needs of the foreign-born members of the community. It then suggests interesting and workable methods of recruiting for classes. Possible members may be reached through former class members, foreign-born leaders, newspaper and poster publicity, industries, churches and through a special American Citizenship Week. Methods of organization and enrollment are described.

Once the class is started, good teaching itself is the best way to hold interest. The lessons should be connected with life and should introduce the play element. Directions for mock elections and other dramatizations are given. Community gatherings where native and foreign-born may mingle promote friendliness and show the foreign-born that the cheap commercial amusement which is all they ordinarily can know is not typical of American social life. The pamphlet closes with stories of what many towns and cities have done in Americanization work. They are full of human interest and of ideas worth imitating.

Available Films.—Through the Industrial Department of the National Headquarters of the Young Men's Christian Association, 347 Madison Avenue, New York City, scenic, industrial and educational motion pictures suitable for showing on playgrounds and in community centers may be secured without cost, save transportation. The only stipulation made is that applications for service be definite concerning the length of time the films are desired and contain the counter-signature of the local Y. M. C. A. secretary in the community. A catalogue and application blank will be sent to any group upon request. The majority of the films spread their propaganda by means of stories which are of real interest to young and old.

For Better Motion Pictures.—At a conference called by Will H. Hays, President of the Motion Picture Producers & Distributors of America, Inc., at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, June 22, 1922, it was agreed by all present that public opinion would support better motion picture films than were being shown, that the producer did have it in his power to bring about the showing of better films, that public opinion could be still further educated, that the principles which should prevail in the

manufacture of films and in the writing of scenarios could be better stated than they have been and could be made available in such a way as to influence the making of better films.

Clarence Arthur Perry pointed out that when people go to burlesque houses they know exactly what they are going to see; when an individual goes to a neighborhood theatre he does not know what he will see. There is need for more facts about films to be given to the public so that those wishing a certain kind of film will know where to go.

There is need, one speaker felt, of a motion picture foundation which will produce educational films which will be effective and artistic.

It was pointed out that in small communities theatres are compelled to take a regular service and must take all the films furnished whether they show them or not. One of the most difficult problems is that of making sure that the small communities have a better class of films. Foreign countries at this time are receiving some of the poorest films manufactured, and much of the work done by our missionaries is frustrated through the bad motion pictures shown. Mr. Hays stated, "I am ready to underwrite the integrity of purpose of the motion picture producers of the United States."

Drama Institute for the Amateur Stage.—The Inter-Theatre Arts, Inc., 65-67 East Fifty-Sixth Street, New York City, has carried successfully to completion its interesting and valuable venture in training dramatic workers. Fundamentals of production under Madame Alberti, Helen Ford, and Elizabeth Grimball, costume design under Rhea Wells, dancing as related to the drama under Miriam Loder Wallace, incidental music under Berta Ellsmith and make-up under Oscar F. Berner—the bare outline tells the tale of what the summer meant to the eager students.

Taking Drama to the People.—Writes a field worker of the Association, "While in Indianapolis I attended a most unique performance. The Mayor has hired an entire cast of stock actors, in fact two of them, who play old time dramas on stages in the parks, the spectators sitting under a tent. The tickets are distributed each day from twelve stations. So popular have the performances become that about one thousand people are turned away each night. It is a real production, by real players, under splendid conditions in the community park."

A Travelling Theatre.—You don't need to go to the theatre in Cincinnati this summer. The theatre comes to you, giving performances on your own playstreet. This travelling theatre is a part of the recreational program of Cincinnati Community Service, organized to bring amusement to everyone in the city and to stimulate dramatic appreciation. Four troupes of players have been recruited from city talent. Like the strolling players of the Middle Ages they set up their scenery, put on their costumes and proceed to create a temporary world of charm and make-believe for circles of eager-eyed children and anticipatory grown ups.

Festival to Finance Play.—Covington, Kentucky, has been busy with a festival arranged to call attention to the recreation needs of the city's children and to provide for them financially. A warehouse of the Kenton Loose Leaf Company was turned into a place of carnival. Fifty booths sold attractive wares. There were a gypsy fortune teller, a lolly-pop tree, a five and ten cent store and a magic well. One section of the warehouse was roped off for dancing, under the direction of the Covington Women's Club.

The opening of this three-day festival was heralded by a parade, in which business men and various organizations participated. Parade floats represented a Boy Scout camp and a city playground.

A Clearing House for Musical Entertainment.—The music service bureau established by Community Service of Knoxville, Tennessee, prevents conflicting dates for musical attractions and helps to insure for them adequate support. The "date book" of the bureau is on inspection at its headquarters in the Business Men's Club. Organizations planning to bring artists to the city are invited to communicate with the bureau, which will arrange advance publicity for concerts.

Denver Music Week.—A thrilling story of musical opportunities and delight is told by the mere program of Denver Music Week. Every day for the entire week attractions are listed all over the city. Churches, schools, stores, factories—likely and unlikely places presented vocal and instrumental music—band, symphony, solo. "I hear America singing."

Chinese Girls Camp.—If it were not for glimpses of twisted trees and a far-off pagoda, one might think that the camp for Chinese girls at Cave Villa, West Valley, Kuling, was an American girls' camp. Almond eyed girls in bloomers play volley ball, baseball and tennis. They enjoy hikes, picnics, nature study and other forms of outdoor life. The camp is conducted by the Department of Physical Education of the National Committee of the Young Women's Christian Association in Shanghai. Self-government is its policy, only such rules as the girls find necessary for their happiness and freedom being adopted. A Chinese girl may stay at the Kuling camp a whole month for the price of a week's board at an American girls' camp.

New Medart Catalogue.—The Fred Medart Mfg. Co. of St. Louis, manufacturer of playground equipment, has just issued its new catalog "M." These pioneer builders of playground equipment have, over a period of 50 years, contributed much to the development and growth of the playground movement.

The new catalogue is in line with the policy of the manufacturer to do more than merely sell the equipment—it is really a comprehensive treatise on the subject of playground planning and equipment. It is profusely illustrated with views, photographs and diagrams—contains much valuable data and information, and suggests various layouts which can be had for certain sums of money.

No More Holes in Hoquiam Hosiery.—Mothers of Hoquiam, Washington, have been finding the stockings of the household in an amazingly whole and neat condition of late. Hoquiam little girls have developed a sudden interest in the state of the family hosiery because of the Community Service stocking darn-ing contest. The contest was open to all girls of the city from six to fourteen years old, inclusive. Groups from various neighborhoods were taken by automobile to the Central Playground, where the inter-city darners' championship was called for two o'clock. Stockings, needles and thread were the implements of competition, and there were prizes for champions of three age groups.

Hoquiam boys from six to fourteen have also had a chance to show their skill in handi-

craft. They had a boat building contest. Boats were constructed at home and brought to the Community Service office to be judged for craftsmanship, originality and balance when placed in the water. Among the seagoing vessels on exhibition were sailing sloops, a shingle "steamboat" propelled by means of a paddle wound up on a rubber band, and a turreted battleship.

New Playground at Turners Falls.—Near the Unity Church of Turners Falls, Massachusetts, is a large field of several acres, which the church offered Community Service for use for a children's playground. It was an excellent opportunity, but there were several thousand difficulties in the way, all in the shape of rocks. Not to be daunted, however, Community Service issued posters which were displayed in store windows and stickers which automobiles carried, urging everyone to come out on certain days and wage war on the rocks.

And they came! On June 28, eighteen trucks, ten teams and four hundred men and boys put in an appearance. Refreshments were served by the Women's Clubs and local merchants furnished twenty cases of pop. On July fifth there were twenty trucks, eight teams and five hundred men and boys. On this occasion the National Catholic Women's Council of St. Marys provided the refreshments.

Increase of Recreation Facilities in New England.—In Swampscott, Massachusetts, the number of playgrounds has been increased from three to eight. The five new playgrounds were cleared by neighborhood effort. The town is now considering the problem of acquiring new play spaces to meet future growth.

North Adams, Massachusetts, is to have a \$25,000 athletic field and recreation center. The City Council recently appropriated this amount for the purpose. The Mayor appointed a Commission of five citizens interested in recreation to arrange for the purchase and equipment of land. Adams Community Service will direct the program at the new center.

Community Service of Brattleboro, Vermont, has acquired an island in the Connecticut River for outdoor recreation. A fine beach is being cleared, and a foot of sand is transforming a rocky place on the shore into a wading pool. Water sports will be directed by

Community Service, and with the cooperation of the Red Cross a life saving service will be maintained.

More Playgrounds Proposed for America's Children.—At the National Convention of the Elks' Association held at Atlantic City in July, the following resolution was proposed:

Resolved:—That every lodge of Elks be urged to purchase or otherwise acquire the necessary property and equip and maintain a playground to be known as Elks' Field for public use, with a view to encouraging the youth of America to engage in athletic activities and patriotic exercises for the development of the bodies and minds of future citizens of the United States, and thus quicken the spirit of American patriotism and create the very best citizenry in the world

New England Playground Workers Confer.—The playground in the crowded city district was the chief topic of discussion at a conference of playground workers from Massachusetts and New Hampshire cities which took place in the offices of Boston Community Service. Representatives from Fall River, Fitchburg, Manchester and other large industrial towns told how they are organizing activities in centers which are the only means of giving the children of congested streets a wholesome play life.

Block Play Centers Meet Playground Shortage.—Realizing that its city playgrounds could not adequately meet the need for summer play, Newark, New Jersey, planned twelve block centers. A washing by the city street cleaning forces and rope boundaries turned the blocks into play spaces. They were laid out in sections, special games for special ages being assigned to each section.

In the circle games section (for ages 6-9), the principal activities were singing games and bean bag play. Games played in the social games section (pages 10-12) included Red Rover, bull-in-the-ring, jump the shot, whip tag and horserider. The third section (ages 13-15) was for such team games as circle ball, baseball, quoits, and relay races. The games of skill played in the fourth section (ages 16-20) included volley ball, boxing, hand tennis and

swat baseball. One of the block playgrounds was for colored children. Fraternal and social organizations of the city provided leadership.

An Aerial Tournament.—For several weeks before the Community Service kite tournament, boys of Corsicana, Texas, were busy with splints, strings and gay colored paper. They made kites of all descriptions—novel kites, racing kites, artistic kites and kites which aimed to win prizes for size or for careful construction. Fathers and mothers had heard so much about the event that a large number of them were on hand. Fathers who had come over "to see the kids play" found the only annoying feature of the afternoon the rule that no young competitor might have help in flying his kite. One or two fathers couldn't resist the temptation to break this rule and were seen assisting with unruly strings.

In the free for all kite battle the boys had fastened knives and razor blades to their kite cords. The adroit small kite had as much chance to cut down opponents and win as had the larger kite. Other events were 100 yard dashes for each type of kite, altitude races for each type of kite and a messenger race, the object of which was to send a device up the string in as short a time as possible.

Fifteenth Regiment Armory Will Serve Community.—New York's 300,000 colored people will have a real community center when the armory of the Fifteenth Regiment, New York National Guard, is completed. The building will serve as headquarters for the famous Negro regiment and will also be constantly in use by the community. The plat upon which the armory's foundation has been set up is on Fifth Avenue between 142nd and 143rd streets.

Inside the building will be enough dormitories to accommodate about eighty per-cent of the regiment's unmarried membership, and a laundry, tailor shop, shoe repairing shop and store, all run on a cooperative basis. A medical clinic, a legal department and an employment bureau will be maintained for the benefit of families of members. Other features will be a women's exchange, clubrooms, a gymnasium, a forum for community meetings and a dance hall, which will be operated on a self-supporting basis. Under the direction of the Playground Association, the children will use the drill floor as a playground during the day.

Flag Ceremony on River Bank.—Just at twilight Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, celebrated the birthday of the national emblem. The community gathered around the D. A. R. flagpole on the river bank at 6:45. There was a program of addresses and singing. Professor Dykema of Community Service led the community choral club of eighty voices. The saluting of the flag by two hundred Boy Scouts, who repeated the oath of allegiance, was very impressive.

Forty-eight Industries United for Play.—In Paterson, New Jersey, an industrial city, adult recreation has been very successfully organized through an industrial athletic association. The Paterson Industrial Athletic Association has become in three years one of the largest associations of its kind in America. Forty-eight industries are now active members. Every year an industrial athletic carnival on a large scale is held at the armory.

Nature Guide Activities.—Sequoia National Park is another of the national parks to which the free nature guide movement, fostered through the joint cooperation of the Federal Government and the State of California, has been extended. There will be the usual program of camp fire talks and hikes. The Nature Guide Movement which had its origin in surveys made of the highly organized work in the mountains of Switzerland and Norway by the World Recreation Survey, has been extended to Yosemite National Park, Yellowstone and Glacier Parks and bids fair to spread to all the national and state parks of the country.

A Real Neighborhood.—At the extreme end of a Pennsylvania city quite removed from any other residences are ten attractive medium houses practically alike, whose residents have a real community life. They are congenial and neighborly and enjoy each other's society. There is a large open space on which eight of the houses face, and here the men have erected swings and a slide for the children of the neighborhood. They plan tents and a merry-go-round for this summer.

Homeland Day.—The old world and the new contributed the choicest of their handiwork to Homeland Day, which was a part of the Americanization program of the Mothers' Club of Ely, Minnesota.

canization program of the Mothers' Club of Ely, Minnesota. Nine nationalities were represented, the flag of each country flying over a booth where articles of its making were displayed by women and girls in national costumes. Each group contributed some of their national songs or dances to the program.

The enduring patience of the foreign artisan was shown in the delicate needlework, finely wrought copper and silver, and the shawls and laces displayed in Scandinavian, Italian, French, Slavic and Jewish booths. America contributed colonial antiques, such as silver plate, furniture, old pottery and books and coverlets intricately stitched by candlelight. The work of the very first Americans—baskets, bead work and moccasins—was especially interesting. Cadman's Indian songs were sung by a Princess in deer skins as an early American contribution to the program.

Gowns of today from Paris contrasted strikingly with the bright holiday attire of Norway and Jugoslavia. From Cornwall came clogs and miners' lanterns and the famous pasty which supplies the miner with a warm dinner. Over one thousand articles were displayed. Several hundred visitors of various nationalities met to look at them, proud of their own land's achievements, but eager to give whatever was fine in them to their new land.

Play Festival at Daytona Beach.—In May the Volusia County Recreational Association under the leadership of Mr. L. R. Reynolds, Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, planned a gigantic play festival for the young and old boys and girls of the County which was held in connection with the annual high school declamation and debating contest in the Peabody Auditorium at Daytona Beach. All schools in the County were granted a holiday so that the students might attend the festival. In the morning there were games between the various schools to determine which had the champion team. In the afternoon on the beautiful beach various races and contests were held in which children from all over the County participated. Those who did not enter the races and the smallest children enjoyed singing games and folk dances.

Not the least attractive feature of the program was the old fashioned basket picnic lunch spread at noon in the amusement park.

This was the first attempt at what will probably be in the future an annual affair. It was a wonderful sight to see thousands of children on the beach enjoying games, contests and other wholesome amusements. Children from the one and two teacher schools in the country came in contact with the larger groups and mutual appreciation was engendered.

More Fun in Field Days.—Farmers' Field Days at Cornell University are more and more becoming days of real fun for all the family. The introduction of quoits into the Granges and a state championship tournament into the Field Day has added numbers of participants, who used to be spectators. A camp-fire and "hot dog" roast is provided for Boys and Girls Clubs. Of course much of the day is spent in tours of the campus and farm and finding the secrets of better farming.

Memorial Park for John Burroughs.—Early in April the memorial field at the boyhood home of John Burroughs was dedicated. The meadowland and old home was purchased by Henry Ford and presented for a public park to the John Burroughs Memorial Association. A bronze

tablet bearing only the name of the naturalist and the dates of his birth and death was placed upon the "boyhood rock." Beneath the rock is the grave.

A Letter from the Marchioness of Aberdeen.—The following letter from Lady Aberdeen is evidence of her continued interest in the recreation movement in the United States since her visit some years ago:

I have received the circular letter with regard to THE PLAYGROUND, and this reminds me that I have again to thank you for your continued kindness in sending me the monthly copy, and to assure you that it is received and read with the greatest interest and appreciation.

May I ask you to convey my personal congratulations, and my sense of the help received, to the Editor?

Hoping that you are keeping well, and that you are still as happy as ever in your most delightful and useful work.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Isabel Aberdeen and Temair
(The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair)



Courtesy of Community Service

A corner of the grounds around the Bloomfield Memorial Building during the dedication exercises.

The Power of Music*

Hon. James J. Davis,

Secretary of the Department of Labor

I would so develop music in the community that I would have a musical instrument of some kind in every home, and I would have every child taught to play, sing and know music. For music makes for better citizenship. It will drive out envy and hate, which do so much to poison the well-springs of our life. Wherever people gather together I would have music, for it brings happiness and contentment.

I am delighted to have this opportunity for a word with the National Association of Music Merchants. Your president and I were boys together. I remember him about his father's music store, so it can truthfully be said of him that he has spent his life serving the people musically. One of my earliest recollections after my arrival in this country is De Forest's Music Store. For I came from Wales, the land of music and song, and to me in this new land the music store naturally became the center of the community. Some of the pleasantest recollections of my life carry me back to the days when I played the clarinet in the Sharon, Pennsylvania, town band. To my mind there is no greater influence for community and social good in the American small town of today than the town band. Every young man in the American community should strive for a place in the band. It means practical as well as musical inspiration and it means companionships and associations which will go with a man all through his life. I know this not only from my own experience. President Harding preserves as one of his proudest recollections the memory of his association with the Marion, Ohio, band, in the days when he was just beginning to develop the character for accomplishment which bore him to the White House.

You know that in Wales every community has its Eisteddfod, or song festival, where every man and woman, whether poet, artist, musician or mechanic, competes. It is the great event of the year in every community. There is competition at the Eisteddfod among artists in every line and those who carry off the honors in the local festival

enter the national Eisteddfod for competition with the winners from all over the country.

POWER OF MUSIC LONG RECOGNIZED

The power of music, most universal of arts, has been recognized from the dawn of civilization. Down the long centuries from the dim ages to today humanity has marched or danced, plodded or gamboled its way of progress under the inspiration of music. From the Psalms of David to the syncopation of modern jazz music has always been the one art that entered intimately the lives of most of the world's peoples. Existence without music is a drab, drear thing for an individual or a people. There is no greater force for peace and happiness than music.

We, in America, could take no single step that would advance our nation along the road to happiness further than the establishment of a national means of exercising the power of music. I can vision an America, united in its songs of home, community and country, knit by that emotion which music alone can stir, leading the world to greater heights of peace, prosperity and happiness.

FOR A FEDERAL BUREAU OF RECREATION

It is to this end that I have suggested the formation in the Federal Government of a Bureau of Recreation—because music does recreate—to be charged with the development of instrumental and vocal music, the drama, theatre and athletics throughout the United States. I believe it is the duty of the Government to do everything possible to make its people happy, and surely the encouragement of the nation's recreation is a part of that duty. I would have this Bureau of Recreation cooperate with the States and the individual communities in developing home and community music. I would have it provide proper direction for national drama and national athletics.

As to music, I would adapt the Eisteddfod idea of Wales to America. That means the organization nationally of instrumental and vocal music, the theatre and all other recreations. And this national organization must begin in the individual community I believe that municipalities

* Extracts from address before the National Association of Music Merchants, Commodore Hotel, New York, June 7, 1922

should have recreational leaders. In the smaller communities especially we must encourage the drama, which of recent years has shown a tendency to become a lost art in the little town. The drama is linked with music, for no play is worth while on the stage unless it is accompanied by music, in one form or another. I would have every form of recreation so that the humblest citizen could really take part and enjoy it, and I would have every town organized to give expression to its people. I would have community competitions, from which the winners would go to county and state competitions, and finally to a great national gathering. I would have musical festivals in town, city, county and State every year.

A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT IN EVERY HOME

I would so develop music in the community that I would have a musical instrument of some kind in every home, and I would have every child taught to play, sing and know music. For music makes for better citizenship. It will drive out envy and hate, which do so much to poison the well-springs of our life. Wherever people gather together I would have music, for it brings happiness and contentment.

Now, in this plan for a national music a heavy responsibility rests upon you, gentlemen, the music merchants of America. You have a double interest in its development, community and patriotic pride and your desire for business prosperity. For a musical America means a growing, prosperous, influential musical business in America. The music merchants in every community should be organized to promote music in every form. They should see to it that the community has a leader of music, a band, an orchestra, and that choral and community singing are encouraged. Every time a band or orchestra gives a concert, every time a chorus is heard, you provide inspiration that may fire the ambition in the soul of youth and start a new musician on the road to fame. That means more business for you. If your municipality does not do the work you should organize your musicians and business men to foster, promote and develop the musical side of the community. For if you develop just one person in your community who becomes a real artist it will have been worth all the community may have contributed.

I know of no greater satisfaction in life than that which comes from having aided deserving talent on the difficult road to success. The com-

munity which helps a musician will find its reward when that musician returns to play or sing his or her appreciation. A community musical leader would readily find the youth with talent and if a musical education was beyond his reach could appeal to the community to provide him with a start in music. One great musical soul from a city in a generation would add honor and glory to its name.

WOULD TEACH MUSIC TO EVERYONE

I would teach music to everyone. Not merely the technical reading of musical notes, or the mechanical manipulation of an instrument, but the true meaning behind the music. We may all listen to the great masterpieces played or sung and know that the playing or singing is great, but how much greater is the enjoyment which comes of knowing the story, of love and life, or sorrow and tragedy, that was in the mind of the composer when he wrought. That enjoyment is what makes the song of sentiment so popular in all ages. Words that tell an emotional story, set to appropriate music, burn into the soul. Who has not felt his heart strings torn when a great artist sings of "Home, Sweet Home?" Who has not felt the soothing sweetness of mother love, throbbing in the tones of the lullaby? These are the themes that stir the inmost soul of man. Beside them modern jazz and ragtime do not even tickle the surface.

I don't know from where the words came, but they express better than I can my love for music: "This is the luxury of music—it touches all the chords of memory. It stirs the depths of sorrow and of joy. I love it for all it makes me forget and for all it makes me remember." All through life music goes with us.

My love for music sometimes proves embarrassing, for it is only by real effort that I restrain myself from joining in the chorus when I hear good music. Sometimes even real effort fails.

All that I have outlined to you in community music organization I have put in force at Mooseheart, the City of Childhood, thirty-five miles west of Chicago. We bought a farm and added to it until now we have 1,023 acres, with more than eleven hundred children. It is the place where we teach boys and girls how to make a living with their hands as well as with their heads. It is a modern town with all conveniences. We have a 120-piece band, a symphony orchestra, the drama, and all that goes with it. Nearly every child can play some instrument.

Music and Labor

Dr. Frank Crane

Organized labor ought to turn its attention to music.

Music is perhaps the best recreation in the world. It cheers, inspires and drives away the gloom.

It is also the best unifier in the world. It is the best bond of comradeship.

We speak of music particularly in reference to groups of laborers because theirs may be the finest music in the world, which is choral singing.

We have somehow fallen into the erroneous notion that music is a luxury and an accomplishment of the idle; or at least it is something that can be taken up only by a favored few.

The contrary is true. Music is essentially universal, democratic and human. Anybody can learn it. It requires no unusual gifts, and not even an education.

James Hodson describes the musical activities of the weavers in Lancashire, England.

In Lancashire and Yorkshire almost everybody is an amateur musician. The weavers there recently gave a production of Balfe's *Bohemian Girl*. A loom tackler took the part of Florenstein. A moulder's laborer was Count Arnheim and a weaver was Arline. The other principals, the chorus and the dancers were all mill hands, boy and girl mill workers.

These workpeople, who are all good union members, have given a number of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, besides very creditable performances of *The Messiah*, *Elijah* and *The Crucifixion*.

The result is good fellowship and refreshing democracy. Often a subordinate in the shop commands his superiors in the chorus or the orchestra.

Some of the singers as well as the instrumental performers learn their parts entirely by ear. That is a laborious process but they enjoy it, and the results are surprising.

There can be no reason why the delights of music and its civilizing and refining advantages should not be enjoyed by every class of people. And if the workers in a factory or a mill were encouraged to take up this sort of thing it would increase the pleasure of living emphatically.

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Strike One!—Belgian boys love the game of baseball. These two were taken on the playground at Charleroi, Belgium.



Johnny stops a hard shot.—Every commune in Belgium having more than 10,000 inhabitants is required by law to have at least one playground.

About the Recreation Congress

From twenty to twenty-five members of the staff of the Department of Recreation of Detroit are making plans to attend the Congress. What city will beat this record?

* * * * *

The Recreation Commission of Allentown, Pa., will attend the Congress in a body.

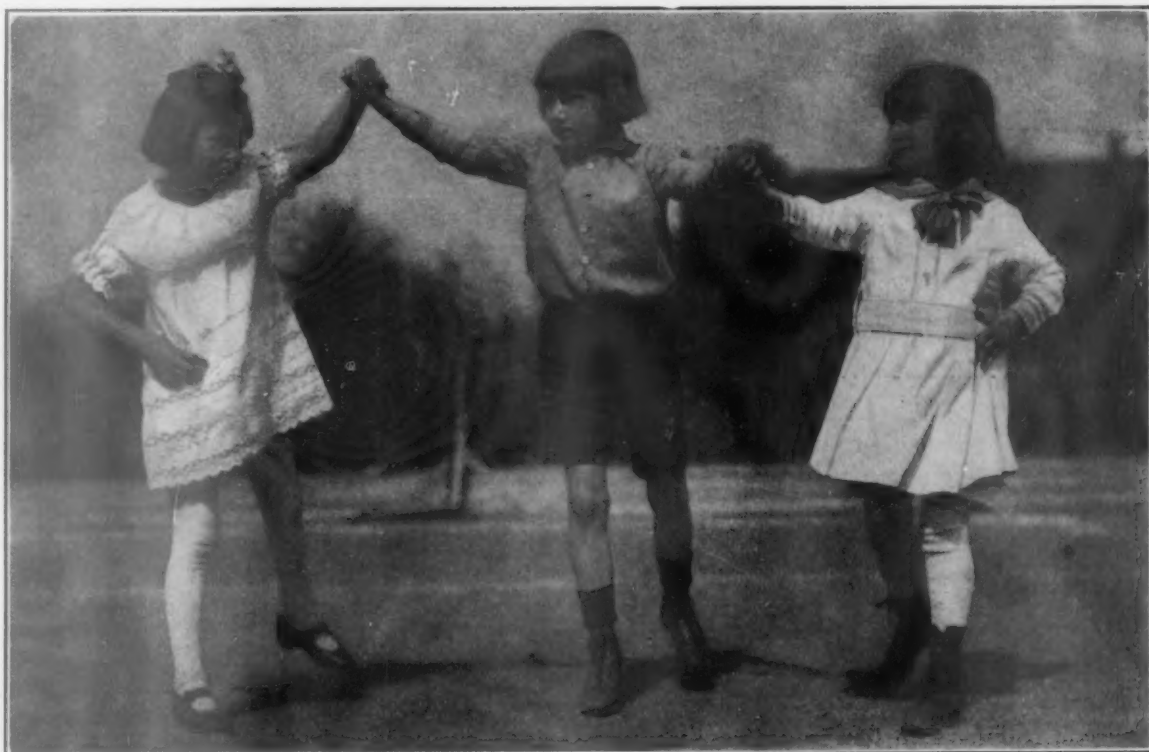
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The State Federation of Women's Clubs of Arizona will be represented by Mrs. C. M. Roberts of Willcox, Arizona.

* * * * *

The Board of Playground Directors of Oakland, California, have passed the following resolution:

Resolved: that the Superintendent of Recreation be and he is hereby authorized to make plans to attend the Recreation Congress to be held at Atlantic City October 9th to 12th, 1922, and that the Playground and Recreation Association of America be notified of the willingness of the Oakland Recreation Department to assist in any possible way.



'O, aimez vous vous balancez bien haut.'—Folk dancing on the Junior Red Cross Playground at Charleroi, Belgium.

State Olympics as a Basis for National Olympic Teams

How North Carolina has set the pace in conducting the first State Olympic games in the history of American athletics as a try out for National Olympic aspirants

MARMADUKE R. CLARK

Director General of First North Carolina
Olympic Games

The first week in May found one thousand and thirty-seven athletes, representing the best talent of the colleges, universities, high schools, Y. M. C. A.'s, military companies and industrial plants of the state making their way toward Durham to compete in the first State Olympic Games ever held in the history of the United States. Long, lanky mountaineers from the "Land of the Sky" in that country back of Asheville, keen law and medical students from the universities, ambitious high school boys from the tobacco belt and from the larger cities, staid business men from the golf clubs and business men's clubs of the Y. M. C. A.'s, speed swimmers, both men and women from all along the sea coast, tobacco and cotton planters from the Piedmont district, all blended together in one grand effort to determine the athletic supremacy in every type of sport practiced in the state from javelin throwing to horseshoe pitching.

Durham, the city known around the world as the home of the famous "Bull," as well as Chesterfield, Piedmont, Lucky Strike and 111 cigarettes, was host to them all. The local physical director of the Y. M. C. A. conceived the idea and through the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs and the Merchants' Association was able to have the proposition underwritten for \$5,000. Each competitor was provided with a comfortable bed and meals at less than cost. Nine divisions of sports were indulged in, namely: Track and field, boxing and wrestling, golf, tennis, baseball, volley ball, swimming, trap shooting and horse-shoe pitching. The proximity of Trinity College with eight hundred students and the University of North Carolina with fourteen hundred students and the availability of their large athletic equip-

ment, together with the local Y. M. C. A. equipment made the city a likely place for the conducting of the games. Three solid days of competition were indulged in, something going on from nine in the morning until after twelve at night, the night events being the boxing and wrestling, in which seventy-eight men competed for state honors. An Olympic parade with five thousand athletes and civic bodies in line was part of the festivities. Each man before being permitted to compete had to be certified as to his amateur standing by the president, or the athletic head of the organization that he represented. Only one protest was filed in over the thousand cases as to a man's amateur standing. Olympic medals and certificates were awarded to the first, second and third places in each event and the records of achievement were posted in the state archives as a basis for future competition. A governing body for the event has been organized into what is known as the North Carolina Olympic Association and is incorporated under the laws of the state. Its purpose as outlined in the incorporation papers is as follows:

(a) To promote the physical, mental and moral welfare of the people of North Carolina and to that end to do everything possible in the encouragement of all forms of clean, wholesome games, athletic contests and physical development.

(b) To spread the gospel of better health by the publication from time to time of pamphlets, dealing with the subjects of athletics, physical education, health measures, precautions.

(c) To encourage indoor athletics by the annual staging of a big indoor meet for the indoor state championships each year.

(d) To encourage and promote physical education in the colleges, schools and other institutions of the state and to help foster friendly rivalry, through the medium of competitive athletics, between the colleges, schools, Y. M. C. A.'s and other similar organizations of the state and to that end to stage the North Carolina Olympic games in Durham, North Carolina, each year for the Olympic Championship of the state. These Olympic games will consist of track and field events, swimming, diving, tennis, golf, volley ball, basket ball, hand ball, baseball, horseshoe throwing, shooting and other indoor and outdoor games of whatever nature.

It is the intention of the organization to conduct a large indoor meet each year and also a yearly Olympic. An entire week will be given to the Olympic feature in the year of 1923. Admissions were charged for all events and although inclement weather set in for part of the time allotted for competition, the committee was able to report all expenses cleared through these gate admissions and program profits. President Harding, realizing the value of the games, sent the following telegram of greeting, which was read at the large entertainment and reception tendered to the visiting athletes at the Academy of Music of the city on the first night of the games:

"Please extend greeting to the athletes gathered in Durham, and my hopes for the success of the first State Olympic Games.

Warren G. Harding"

We who have been instrumental in organizing this departure in American athletic competition, feel that we possibly have hit upon a likely solution in the selection of truly representative athletes to compete for America in the international Olympic games. We can but visualize what impetus would be given to American athletics if each state in the Union as a whole would follow the stride of North Carolina and organize similar Olympic bodies. Games would be conducted throughout the Union each year, records recorded and sent to a central governing body and then each four years just prior to the selection of the Olympic team the best performers from each state Olympic would be sent to a central place and there compete in an American Olympic games, from which winners would be selected to be sent abroad, representing America. Each state's pride in being given the opportunity of allowing its best athletes to compete for the distinguished honor of representing America would give the incentive for sending these representative athletes to the central point for further elimination.

"The average length of school life for American youth is slightly more than four years; as a clear and inevitable corollary we are a nation of sixth-graders.

"In the past as H. G. Wells says, 'it has always been a race between education and catastrophe.' The future promises even keener competition between these contestants.

"Our institutions reflect the intelligence and character of our average citizens, so it is the education of the average youth that must be our first concern. Because it is evident that for that youth his leisure in later life must still be his great school, I want to add another to the traditional tools of the mind; I want to coordinate with the classic three R's two others, right rest,—the proper use of leisure.

"The problem of the twentieth century is not the creation of wealth. The achievements of the nineteenth century have insured this result. It is not primarily the distribution of wealth or the conservation of natural resources; for these results we cannot have until we have an educated people. The twentieth century problem is the conservation, which means the utilization, of the leisure time of the people; for only in this way can we really get a truly educated people and only through an educated people can we hope to secure economic justice, responsible political freedom, or the conservation of the resources of the earth.

"The school must be made more of a leisuretime institution; it must come to have a closer relation to real life."

W. D. Ross, Kansas State Normal

The Buffalo Recreation Survey--II

CHAUNCEY J. HAMLIN

Chairman Recreation Committee Social Welfare Conference of Buffalo

II. PARKS

One reason for the tremendous popularity of our parks and the overcrowding of them is because Buffalo is not adequately supplied with playground space. Wide and extensive use of large parks is of course to be encouraged, but this should not be done at the expense of the little children in the neighborhood who cannot afford the car fare to carry them to the parks. Moreover, too great use of the open space and beauty spots of our parks for purely athletic purposes because of the lack of adequate athletic field centers, should not be permitted to continue to the eventual detriment of the use of the parks as a place where people may withdraw themselves into quiet and restful scenes, away from the turmoil of city life.

The growth of an interest in intra-city athletics, particularly in the field of amateur baseball, is one of the clearest indications of a healthy spirit in outdoor recreation in Buffalo. This interest will not only be greatly assisted by the establishment of the athletic field centers in various sections of the city referred to above, but will be further encouraged by the proper location in Buffalo of a municipal stadium where not only the championship games of baseball and football may be played, but where also facilities for great community athletic meets and pageants may be provided. While still speaking of baseball, it might be well to explain the position of our committee in regard to providing facilities for playing baseball in connection with the junior and senior playgrounds. These playgrounds are designed for the properly supervised play of all the children who come to them. If a large share of ground is set aside as a baseball diamond, the result will be that too many of the children will become side-line rooters instead of participants. Indoor baseball, with a large, softer ball, can be played to better advantage on these grounds, using less space and having more participants. The danger is that if a good baseball diamond is provided upon these playgrounds there will be too great a temptation on the part of the older boys

or young men to ask, and perhaps be granted, its use, thus pre-empting the facilities provided for the younger boys and girls.

WHAT THE CHURCHES ARE DOING

The survey conducted among the various churches has brought to light a decided tendency toward the establishment of various forms of parish and community recreation service. We find the ninety churches replying to our questionnaire engaged in forty-two different activities. Sixty churches have annual outings or picnics. Twenty have musical organizations other than the choir. Sixty-six have frequent dramatic entertainments. Fifty-nine have rooms or halls suitable for recreation. Forty-two are considering future plans for providing wholesome recreation. The survey, however, shows a lack of recreation plans in certain sections which most need them, while other sections seem rather over-equipped in comparison. Quite a number of the churches are offering their facilities for use by the community in which they are located irrespective of their religious beliefs. As a matter of fact, one of the former church settlement houses has recently severed its connection with its parent church and recreated itself distinctly as a non-religious community center. This tendency exhibited by the churches is evidently in answer to a need for the establishment throughout the city of strictly community centers where all living within one neighborhood may meet upon common ground and unite in the common interests of their community life. In this connection, also, in certain sections of the city, a rather strong community interest has been evidenced in the evening work in some of the public schools. It is the judgment of our committee that steps should be taken to organize this community or neighborhood life around, and in connection with, the public schools where such schools furnish facilities, and that in the section of the city where the public schools are not equipped with the proper facilities, the establishment of a number of community center buildings

should be seriously considered. Such a school or community center might very well be operated in connection with a junior or senior playground or an athletic field center and should be equipped with facilities for dancing, community singing, dramatic productions, lectures and movies, gymnasium work, bowling, pool, locker space, public baths, swimming, quiet games, kitchen, separate club rooms for men, women and children, and branch library and reading room.

GIRLS LIKE TO DANCE

The analysis of the questionnaire among the eighth grade children of Buffalo schools referred to below indicates a surprisingly early interest in dancing on the part of the girls. Unless this perfectly normal desire is taken into account in the building of Buffalo's recreation plan and adequate facilities provided for dancing, it is apt to result in too great use of public dance halls which in some instances are not well supervised. Why should there not be open-air dancing pavilions provided in our parks and dancing accommodations provided in our community center buildings or in the school buildings which might be used for that purpose?

AND AGAIN --LEADERSHIP

This brings us to a consideration of the question of supervision and leadership. A city might well supply all the junior and senior playgrounds and community houses that its territory and population might warrant, and still fail in the performance of its function of supplying wholesome recreation by failing to supply proper leadership. It is sometimes said that a child's real teachers are his playmates. Certain it is that the fibre of character and personality grow largely during play hours. We need leadership for children because it has been shown that few recreational interests are acquired after the school period and because distinctive recreational habits persist to the extent to which they are cultivated in youth. Leadership is the first essential. Intelligent direction of play on an unkempt vacant lot is preferable to a playground with a million dollars worth of apparatus without leadership.

BOYS PLAY MORE THAN GIRLS

The survey referred to above which has been conducted by circulating a carefully prepared questionnaire among all the eighth grade children of the city has not only confirmed some

more or less self-evident facts but also brought to light some new and interesting sidelights on recreation in Buffalo. This survey was conducted in 80 schools, and reached 2159 boys and 2430 girls.

In the first place it was found that from twice to three times as many boys as girls play daily after school, are employed after school, go to the parks often, play baseball, football, volleyball, handball, basketball, swim, go boating, fishing, play pool and skate, while about the same number of girls as boys go occasionally to the parks, play tennis, use gymnasiums, go to the movies, roller skate, use the public library.

On the other hand, over three times as many girls as boys dance in public halls, dance at amusement parks, dance at home.

From the results of this survey it would appear in the first instance that it would be advisable to pay considerably more attention to the recreational problem of the young girl, especially when it appears that in one of the districts almost half of the fourteen-year-old girls in the eighth grade seek their recreation at dances in amusement parks, and this apparently not with boys of their own age but with older boys.

The creation of a more wholesome city-wide interest among all the girls in sports which are evidently popular among some girls will help solve this problem. The sports which were found to prove attractive were play after school, volleyball, handball, basketball, tennis, swimming, boating, fishing, roller skating and ice skating. The survey showed that about four times as many girls indulged in these games and sports in certain sections of the city as they do in other districts.

The two districts in the city which stand at the head of the list in large percentage participation in wholesome games both among boys and girls have the largest percentage of both boys and girls of any districts in the city in the Boy and Girl Scout movements and similar organizations.

Just as there has been noticed a great disparity in the percentage participation in wholesome games between districts among the girls there is a similar disparity amongst the boys. The games and sports which the boys indulged in were shown to be to play daily after school, play in parks on some occasions, baseball, football, volleyball, handball, basketball, tennis, gymnasium, swimming, boating, fishing, roller skating and ice skating.

In the case of the boys the figures showed that about three times as many boys in some sections of the city play these wholesome games, as they do in other sections. A comparison between the various districts is exceedingly interesting.

The Central Park District easily stands at the head of the list in all outdoor and athletic activities with the South Park District an easy second. It also appears from the survey that the boys in Black Rock, Humboldt and Central East Side Districts show more athletic tendencies than the boys living in the west side district as they play more baseball, football, handball, basket ball, tennis, and, with exception of the Black Rock, use the gymnasiums more, swim more, fish more and skate.

The girls in the west side district, however, lead these other districts in basketball, tennis, swimming, boating, fishing, ice skating.

The boys on the West Side spend more time at the movies while the girls in the Humboldt and Central East Side district lead the city in their attendance at Public Dance Halls and at dances at Amusement Parks and Beaches.

It is easy to see that the more boys play games the less they go to the movies. This is also borne out by the fact that South Park and Central Park Districts are low in frequent attendance at movies, and that the more girls play games the less they go to Public Dance Halls and Amusement Parks for their recreation.

The two most backward districts in the city are the Polish District and the Kensington District. In both these districts, as shown by our

District surveys, there is a lamentable lack of facilities. This undoubtedly accounts for their poor showing in the questionnaire.

We may conclude from this survey—

1. That the problem of providing wholesome recreation for the young girls should receive especial attention.

2. That the percentage disparity in the case of both boys and girls between the different districts should lead to especial efforts in the backward districts to bring them more nearly on a parity with the best.

3. That the principal reason for the backward district lies in the lack of proper facilities and leadership.

In conclusion, our Committee desires to state that in their judgment, the facts brought to light in this survey of the situation in Buffalo show the need of further study of the problem and the eventual adoption and execution by the proper municipal authorities of a carefully considered and well-rounded recreational program for our city.

The Committee which has carried forward its survey up to date, wholly without funds and solely through the voluntary work of its members, feels that the time has come to turn over the results of its efforts, only partly indicated in this paper, to such public officials as may be designated to receive the same and hereby offers to cooperate with such officials in any way that may be desired in building such a recreation program for the Buffalo of the future as will insure Health, Happiness and Prosperity to all our citizens so long as they shall live.

Life comes to us from behind the veil; it wells up from some source other than ourselves. Incarnation proceeds through our own act in reducing the crude impulse to such form of utterance as we can find for it; and the first form we give it is the dream. The life process is one of alternation: first, listening to the ideal and trying to form an image of its prompting, then turning to the practical limitations of our nature and our materials and attempting to strike it into some working form, then back to the vision and from that again to execution. It is alternate sleeping and waking, dreaming and attempted realization; and with each true attempt the vision itself grows more defined. The danger is that we become governed not by our dream but by the exigencies and limitations of our material and of practical life, find some smart and easy way that succeeds, but involves a forgetting of what we started out to do.

JOSEPH LEE

Balancing the Playground and Recreation Center Program

GEORGE W. BRADEN

Ten fundamentals in the play program for boys and girls which must be recognized if interest, balance and efficiency are to be maintained:

To follow a leader

Every normal boy and girl craves the opportunity of following a leader. As illustrating this point, I remember the group of boys who waited on a Governing Board and asked that the play supervisor be moved and somebody else secured. The boys replied when asked what the chief difficulty seemed to be, "We want somebody that can boss us, this guy lets us have our own way too much." The wise "set-up" makes ample provision for the training and use of volunteer leaders in addition to care and caution in choosing the supervisor and associates.

To have chums

It is almost too trite to say, "Don't smash the gang, use it." Divert its energy and enthusiasm in constructive channels, make ample provision for *group* interests and activities. Stress group action and team-play as against selfish pairing off and star performance.

To make things

This covers everything from sand piles and blocks to intricate and skilled handiwork. Activities will cover sand pile, blocks, paper cutting and tearing, work with clay, beads, grass, raffia, willow, wood, wire, brass and cord for making nets and hammocks.

To collect things

What boy or girl does not have a hobby for collecting things? The average treasure box goes far beyond the 57 varieties, and it includes everything from pins to fish hooks. The desire to collect and own something is behind all of the hobby clubs. Leaves and flowers, minerals, bugs, beetles and butterflies, old birds' nests—boys should be warned about collecting birds' eggs—old coins, stamps and curios, calendars and valentines may be the basis of collections and clubs.

To investigate things

The desire to know how the thing works, what it is made of, and how can it be torn to pieces and made to do something else is a fundamental instinct and if directed will become constructive rather than destructive. One wise play leader had a group of boys busy for hours showing them how the parts of an old alarm clock could be used for making boats and windmills. Another leader got an old gas engine and had session after session of interested and eager *students*.

To go some place

Under this heading naturally come games, hikes and outings, nature and educational trips, gypsy wagon trips, over night and permanent camps.

To hear and tell a story

The average American boy and girl is starved and hungry in this phase of play life. Story telling is not at its best in America, and this tremendously important interest should increasingly be recognized and provided for in the play and recreation center program. The Cincinnati Community Service Story Telling Institute and placing of volunteer story tellers is well worth study.

To dress up and make believe

The height of ambition of every normal girl and boy. It goes all the way from the two-pin circus to high class drama. Activities include amateur circus, seasonable festivals, parades, carnivals, stunt nights, minstrel shows, plays and pageants.

To be active physically

Six fundamental activities that must be recognized as basic to the more interesting and helpful athletics, games and sports coming up out of the distant past are: Running, jumping, dodging, striking, climbing and throwing. In this group come athletics, gymnastics, team games, aquatics and combats.

(Continued on Page 294)

Eyes on the Game

WINIFRED HATHAWAY

Secretary National Committee for the Prevention
of Blindness

Play ball! Play ball! The great out of doors beckons! The season calls! Tennis, baseball, golf, volley ball, basket ball, no matter what, play ball!

If you only could? What! You can't see well enough without your glasses and you're always afraid of breaking them? Get out into the open, and perhaps,—who knows?—you may not need them after a time. Nervous, tired bodies mean nervous, tired eyes and vice versa.

Even if your glasses do break, they are not the first consideration; why sacrifice the joy of sport to a pair of lenses? You can get a new pair! But the eyes back of them,—those precious, irreplaceable lenses? "Ay, there's the rub"; you can't afford to run any risk with them; sight isn't purchasable. Yet even with glasses, play—real hard honest-to-goodness play—is possible if the right precaution is taken. Rimless glasses are dangerous playfellows; just a touch of the ball, or a tap of the racquet and a bit of shattered glass may find its way through the delicate membrane covering the surface of the eye; then real trouble begins. Rimless glasses were never meant for play; the kind to get is the kind that has been tested out. No, not any particular product, but glasses that make it possible for you to see the ball because they are properly fitted to your eyes and, just as important, glasses in such firm, well made, thoroughly tested rims that the glass will be held in place no matter how hard the impact may be.

Play is robbed of half its joy if you have your glasses on your mind. Remember when you fouled the goal and got the whole shebang into bad humor because at the crucial moment you had to put up your hand to straighten your glasses? Remember when you thought you'd play without them because they were such a nuisance and, in consequence, didn't gauge the distance right by half a yard? Remember when you lost your pet golf ball in the bog because your near-sighted eyes mistook it for the green? You haven't played since? Just made up your mind you couldn't see well enough? Didn't realize that the game of life is infinitely harder if you

haven't learned the rules of ethics and team work and the square deal through play? To work well, one must play well. The man or woman who works all the time becomes the dull product of a specialty. Play—clean, healthy, invigorating play—sweeps the cobwebs from the brain, hardens the muscles, increases the power of resistance and makes work easier and happier.

Don't let a pair of glasses deprive you of your sport. If you can't see well enough without them, get the right kind and give them a fair chance to help you.

If by any bad fortune your eye should be hurt by a strike of the bat, a scramble ending in a fall, a bit of something flying up unexpectedly, or a dash into a post, have it attended to immediately. Many blind people will tell you that a very slight injury was the cause of their loss of sight, perhaps only a cinder, or the merest scratch on the membrane; an injury to one eye is very apt, unless it is cared for, to start a sympathetic inflammation in the other and once that sets in, the condition is serious.

Don't use the other player's towel after the shower. He may have a disease of the eyes that you wouldn't like; of course he wouldn't give it to you purposely. He may not even know he has it himself, but germs are not respecters of persons or in the least particular about the company they keep. A serious eye disease like trachoma that causes untold suffering and often ends in blindness has made the lives of whole families a misery because they used a common towel.

There is such a thing as being over cautious; that takes all the zest out of life. The fish that feared to take any food because he thought there might be a hook in it starved to death. If everybody gave up all the fun of life because he had something the matter with his eyes, or feared he might get something the matter with them, the world would be too serious a place to live in; all the laughter would die out and work would become too heavy for want of its leaven.

Be reasonably careful and then swing into the game. Play ball!

Arthur R. Tuttle

THE PLAYGROUND publishes the obituary notice of Arthur R. Tuttle printed in the Peru (Indiana) *Daily Tribune* because it believes Arthur R. Tuttle, who gave his life to save a boy swimmer, is typical of recreation workers. If he was one of the best, his story may be a light to guide others in the path. A patriotic rally which had been planned in the city park for the Sunday following Mr. Tuttle's death was turned into a great memorial service for him.

THE PRINCE OF GOOD FELLOWS*

Arthur R. Tuttle has passed. He died trying to save another.

It is with heavy heart that we pen these lines in our meek effort to pay tribute to one of the best fellows we have met in many years. He was a good fellow among all classes, poor and rich, old and young—in fact all, men, women and children.

As director of the Community Service he was ideally fitted—the duties of which ordain that he be a good fellow. He made good in every angle. His amiable disposition and clear-sightedness for the pleasures of others made him friends on every hand. He was well fitted as a Community director, having the splendid attribute of mixing with all kinds of people. He was beloved by members of every class—athletic groups, community work groups, educational and religious organizations.

In the course of Mr. Tuttle's humanitarian work, he had planned a Community meeting at the City Park for Sunday, which consisted of a talk

Courtesy of *Peru Daily Tribune*.

by a national figure of the late war, who gave talks to the boys over there and in this country; also for community singing. The program was planned by Mr. Tuttle to be very interesting for Peru and Miami county people. He had worked hard for this meeting that it might prove unusually interesting to all. This meeting should be, at least a portion of it, turned into a memorial service to pay tribute to the splendid work of Mr. Tuttle, whose short residence in this community has worked such marvelous fellowship spirit in our midst.

As organizer and promotor of the Community Baseball League, which was scheduled to end with Saturday's games, he has worked hard.

He enjoyed witnessing the young men who constituted the eight teams of the league deriving pleasure out of the games. And they did. His work in this respect though unfinished, will be completed, and the awarding of the trophy cup which he worked so hard to secure that the boys might have some object of honor to play for, will be made at a meeting after the games are completed. One of his last acts, before leaving for Lukens' Lake yesterday was to call upon the writer and provide us with data for the coming games on Saturday. He didn't forget one group for the pleasure of another. He was constantly working for the sustenance of the genuine Community Spirit. His job was a hard one, but he was equal to it.

Peru loses a good citizen in Mr. Tuttle; his family of a wife and two small children lose a good husband and father.

The community is grieved. He was a prince of good fellows!

"Religion, we discover, is no mere department of human life, but rather abundance of life. It includes every constructive force and excludes only that which destroys. Hence, when the psychologist tells us that play is a necessary part of the educative process, we see God's hand in the play impulse and we begin to cooperate with the Creator by providing playgrounds for city children. When we learn from physiology and psychology the true significance of muscular development for mental growth, we turn to and build gymnasiums in the name of the Lord! Let the new generation thank God that we have attained to an inclusive view of religion. . . Athletic sports must be incorporated into the educational process. . . We must consecrate them to the service of God by making them serve systematically, scientifically, in the development of a rounded manhood."

GEORGE ALBERT COE, Ph. D.

Ten Days' Notice to Get Out!

"Ten Days' Notice to Get Out" are the menacing words appearing in large black type on the face of an envelope which was given to each resident of Berwyn, Illinois. Inside the envelope, however, was an invitation designed to allay all fear on the part of anyone who might read in the words an eviction notice. The invitation reads as follows:

"The Recreation Club hereby gives you

TEN DAYS' NOTICE TO GET OUT

of your happy home and over to your neighbor's on Tuesday, June sixth, 1922 at eight o'clock sharp, for an old fashioned neighborhood social.

The south portion of the city of Berwyn has been divided for the occasion into about forty social centers comprising approximately a block

each. Each social center will have its own neighborhood social on the date mentioned above.

Everyone will recognize the compulsion of such an opportunity to form or to renew the social contact with his neighbors which he admits he has somewhat neglected. The Recreation Club is furnishing the machinery to advertise this laudable project; every young person and adult will do his share by taking part in the social in his block; and old Berwyn will be sociable for once in its life in the good old-fashioned way and in a wholesale manner.

The Recreation Club will furnish a social team for each social center to help arrange a program.

The social in your neighborhood will be held at

.....
Dress is informal. Wear your neighborhood clothes and a smile."



BERWYN, ILLINOIS

Even Rover was invited.

How other communities are building up neighborhood life will be told at the Recreation Congress, Atlantic City, October 9-12.



BERWYN, ILLINOIS

Neighborhood spirit is bound to grow when folks play together.

The following letter was received by Joseph Lee.

Dear Mr. —,

You may be interested in an incident that hapened at the Commerce-English football game yesterday. It is along one of the lines that we discussed in our course last year.

One of our boys, a fine, big, wholesome lad, who played center on our team, was injured about four weeks ago, water on the knee resulting. Of course, he was out of the game for a few weeks. In the meantime, another fine chap filled the position exceptionally well. The original center returned to practice a week ago. Until the coach selected the team just as the game was about to begin, no one knew who was the final choice of the coach. He decided to allow the new man to start the game, since the first boy had lost so much practice. The latter rushed over to his rival, grasped his hand, and shook it convulsively. Then he returned toward the bench, sat down, and after burying his head in his hands, cried as if his heart would break. It took both the coach and me to console him in his great disappointment.

During the game, the boy was in the greatest glee at seeing his companions winning. After the game had ended in a victory for Commerce, the boy rushed about congratulating the winning players.

When the team returned to the dressing room, in the midst of the rejoicing, the coach found the boy with the tears rolling down his cheeks.

Both the coach and I were greatly touched by the boy's action. In fact it moved me to the point of taking him to the theatre last evening. When I met him he was happy over the victory, and strong in his loyalty to the coach. The lad said that he knew the coach did the right thing but he added, "Oh, how I wanted to play in that game! I had my heart set on it for over a year. I was so disappointed that I could not help crying. We won, so I am satisfied."

Question,—Is Play Serious?

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) —.

Alabama Mixer

Old Fashioned Square Dance, No. 2. Simplified
for a Social Mixer Dance...

FRANCES H. HAIRE

Community Service, Incorporated

Music: *Arkansas Traveler* or *Money Musk*
Formation:

Quadrille formation, which is four couples facing a hollow square. The lady is on the right of the gentlemen. Head couple is couple containing the caller or any couple in the set indicated by caller if he is not dancing.

Since the calls are so indicative of the steps as to be almost as clear as the directions, I suggest that the game leader in teaching the dance use the calls as they were used in the old fashioned square dance. By the time the dance is learned a volunteer caller will appear who will take the responsibility off your shoulders in case you belong to the gentler sex.

The dance step is either a walking step or a sort of two step according to dance figure.

I

(a) "All circle right"

Set joins hands to form a circle and all circle to the right. 8 measures of the music.

(b) "Swing your opposite"

Gentlemen swing the ladies on the left of them—not their partners. This is a turn taken with the old fashioned waltz positions. 4 measures.

(c) "Now your own"

Gentlemen swing own partners. 4 measures of the music.

(d) "Promenade home"

All join hands and circle to the left. 8 measures of the music.

(e) "First couple out"

Head couple goes to the next couple on the right which is Couple II. 4 measures.

(f) "Four hands round"

Joins hands with that couple to form a circle and circles once around. 4 measures of music.

(g) "Right hands across"

Extend right hands into circle grasping opposite partner's right hand. Continue circling. 4 measures.

(h) "Left hand back"

Turn and circle in opposite direction, extend-

ing left hand into circle grasping opposite partners left hand. 4 measures.

(i) "Swing your opposite"

Gentlemen swing ladies on left of them—not their partners. 4 measures.

(j) "And now your own"

Gentlemen swing own partner. 4 measures.

(k) "On to the next couple"

Head couple advances to the next couple in the set and repeats all the above, then with the third couple and then to the fourth, when finishing with that they return to own places.

The second couple may then lead out and around the entire set then the third, then the fourth until all have been the leaders in visiting each of the other couples. In other words the dance is repeated four times in all from (e) "First couple out." The music will be played over and over as was the case with square dances.

II

(a) "All circle right"

(b) "Swing your opposites"

(c) "Now your own"

(d) "Promenade home"

(e) "First couple out"

(f) "Four hands round"

All above same as step I.

(g) "Bird in the cage"

Head lady steps into middle of circle, others continue to circle. 4 measures.

(h) "Bird flies out and the hawk flies in"

Head lady returns to circle and her partner steps into the middle. 4 measures.

(i) "Swing your opposite"

Gentlemen swing opposite ladies. 4 measures.

(j) "Now your own"

Gentlemen swing own partners. 4 measures.

(k) "Next couple out"

Couple No. 2 now leads to next couple on their right and dance is repeated from (f) "Four hands around." Couple 3 then couple 4 repeat same.

III

(a) "All circle right"

(b) "Swing your opposite"

(c) "Now your own"

(d) "Promenade home"

(e) "First couple out"

(f) "Four hands around"

(g) "Lady around lady and gent solo"

Head lady makes figure eight around couple,

(Continued on Page 296)

Getting Acquainted with Famous Pictures

GENEVIEVE FOX

When you see a famous picture like Gainsboro's Blue Boy and Raphael's Madonna of the Chair, you probably recognize it, at least vaguely as an old acquaintance, but can you call it by name and tell the name of the artist? For instance, tell right away quick who painted Baby Stuart. Yes it *was* "one of those old fellows," but *which* one?

Isn't it rather a pity not to know by name pictures which you see in people's homes and in school rooms and in churches? You would probably be quite embarrassed if you didn't recognize Handel's *Largo* or the *Intermezzo* from *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Why isn't it just as bad not to know Gainsboro's Blue Boy by sight or Michael Angelo's Creation?

This is what the people of Richmond, Indiana, recently decided and that is why the Community Service committee decided to inaugurate a famous pictures contest.

First they secured prints of fifty representative pictures and placed them on exhibition in the reading room of the public library and had them thrown on the screen in the high school auditorium and in moving picture theatres.

Of course the simplest thing for the committee would have been just to lump everyone together and to announce first, second and third prizes to anybody and everybody who wanted to compete, but there was a lot more to Richmond's contest than that. There was a prize for the best showing made by a primary grade, by an intermediate grade, by a parochial school and by a district school and by a junior high school. There was a prize for the Parent-Teacher Association that scored highest and a prize for the Sunday School class that had the best collective picture memory. Then, there was a family group prize. No, it wasn't a prize for the best specimen out of the old family album; it was a prize to the family that knew the most about art as indicated by the results of the contest.

The last day of the contest was examination day. The pictures were thrown on the screen, both afternoon and evening at the high school auditorium and the contestants were asked to write down on their papers the name of each picture and the name of the artist. The number

of people who took part and the high grades they received is probably the best indication of the interest the contest aroused. Here are some of the returns:

3,460 people handed in papers.

\$1,000 worth of pictures and objects of art were given as prizes.

Three families tied for the first prize in the family group contest.

In the individual contest among the grown people, 107 persons tied for first place with 100%. (Second tests were given in cases where there was a tie.)

A Community Circus |

What the posters call a "monster, three-ring circus" came to Ewing Field, San Francisco. There were clowns and clever animals and trapeze artists, but because this was the Community Service Circus, there were also many attractions that ordinary circuses don't have.

A squadron of army planes made aerial maneuvers above the field. The army and navy and the police and fire departments put on stunts. Especially thrilling was the tug-of-war on horseback between the police department and a team of army cavalry men.

A large program of rodeo events included bull riding, broncho races and fancy roping. The art of boxing was demonstrated by Jimmy Britt, former lightweight champion, who took on six youngsters from the Olympic Club, individually and collectively. The U. S. Naval Training Station put on several bouts, as did the Union Sportiva Italiana Club. A pretty San Francisco girl was elected queen of the circus, and with her court and guards of honor was a feature of the parade.

In a public proclamation Mayor Roth urged citywide support of the circus, and set aside days for a ticket-selling campaign. The receipts went to carry on the recreation activities of Community Service at neighborhood clubs, army and navy posts, hospitals and prisons. "Community Service," said a San Francisco Editorial, "Cleans out gangs and substitutes teams. It makes safe instincts out of bad ones. It has never yet put on a public drive for contributions. Community Service more than pays its way, and it will pay its way again in Ewing Field."

Camps for Building Citizenship

Ross B. Johnson, Morgantown, W. Va.

West Virginia believes that play has as important a part in the development of the country boy and girl as does any other part of his training. Thus the Agricultural Extension Division in this state has undertaken through their play to develop the mental, moral, religious, and physical side of the farm boy or girl. Similarly the work of the Extension Division among the men and women of the state has sought to emphasize the social side as well as the purely financial; in other words that farm men and women need to know how to get the most out of life fully as much as to know how to get one hundred cents for every dollar's worth of farm produce.

The work among the farm boys and girls began with their organization in clubs in which, centered around their projects of raising a calf, or growing an acre of corn, they are shown how to organize their clubs and how to make these clubs work. Songs and games are an important part of almost every club meeting. Old games are re-vamped and new ones devised. There is a special club song which has its place right along with the patriotic airs and the old time-worn songs that country people still love.

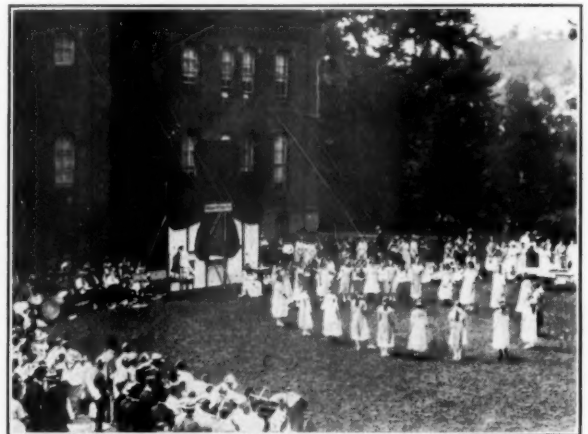


In the background the new assembly hall at State Camp 4-H. In foreground spring house built by boys.

These meetings held regularly by the club youngsters have proved big factors in the lives of the farm boys and girls and have paved the way for a selection of the cream of the clubs into county groups for a week's camp each year at some central spot in the country. The boys and

girls meet together and group games are expanded. Simple lessons are taught which help the youngsters to return home better prepared to do their everyday work. Many of these lessons are taught very directly through play. Others are regular classes, but with the skies as the roof and the horizon as walls of the classroom.

From these county camps comes another selection of picked youngsters who meet in an an-



The Pageant of the Club Spirit

nual state camp. These camps have been held at the State University for several years. In 1921 West Virginia took another forward step by securing thirty-five acres of land, marking the site of the boyhood home of General Thomas J. ("Stonewall") Jackson in Lewis County, West Virginia, and permanent buildings are being put up, swimming pool provided and baseball and football grounds arranged. At this camp a dozen or more counties will build their own little cottages which will be distinctive of their respective counties. The youngsters will help make this camp their own camp by doing some of the actual work themselves this summer. Here the boys and girls will meet for ten days each year and every effort will be put forth to make them real leaders in their respective communities, able to hold the light for the less fortunate boys and girls who cannot attend this camp.

The farm women have largely been the ones to feel most quickly the need of something similar

(Continued on Page 295)

The Second National Conference on State Parks

The Second National Conference on State Parks was held at Bear Mountain Inn in Palisades Interstate Park, New York, May 22nd to 25th and was attended by about one hundred and fifty delegates representing nearly every state in the Union. The program of the Conference was divided almost equally between business sessions devoted to addresses and discussions, and to observation trips.

Among the points of interest visited during the Conference were the chapel and parade grounds at West Point, the unfinished section of the scenic Storm King Highway, and Washington's Headquarters at Newburg. A bus ride over miles of excellent roads through the heart of the Interstate Park, gave an opportunity for observing the beauty and remarkable development of the park. Stops were made at a number of the well equipped camps which have been constructed for the use of various children's and adults' organizations. A sail down the Hudson, a visit to the Kensico reservoir, and a ride along the partially completed Bronx Parkway, were features of the last day of the Conference. The Palisades Interstate Park Commission generously furnished steamer and automobile transportation during the entire Conference, and the efficient organization of this service and the courtesy of the employees were commended by all the delegates.

A FOREST OR A PARK

In the discussion of parks and park problems in the business sessions, the question of recreation received the greatest emphasis. Almost without exception each of the speakers stressed the recreational value and use of park and forest areas, although there was some difference of opinion as to the comparative emphasis which should be placed on recreation, timber, and water supply. In his paper on *Forest Recreation and Its Possibilities*, Dr. Francis, of the New York College of Forestry, expressed the view that the various utilities resulting from state forests and parks go hand in hand. He further stated that the problem of American civilization is to provide public outdoor facilities and to educate the people to their use. Mr. J. H. McFarland, President of the American Civic Association, in discussing State Parks and their uses, drew a definite distinction between a state forest and a state park, indicated

that the prime object of a state forest is timber whereas that of a state park is recreation. Mr. McFarland's purpose was to show that when, in administering a state park, a conflict arises between the timber and recreational interests, the decision should always be in favor of recreation.

The question of methods of securing state appropriations for parks and forests brought forth some interesting discussions. Mr. Bazeley, of the Massachusetts Conservation Commission, told of the recreational uses which are made of the forests in that state, but expressed the opinion that state appropriations could not have been secured for recreational parks. The state was willing, however, to spend money to conserve its timber and water supply. On the other hand, a member of the Essex County Park Commission of New Jersey, told of the millions of dollars which have been appropriated for the development of its park system which is a purely recreational project. In spite of the difference of opinion as to the value of various park utilities in securing appropriations, a general opinion prevailed on the part of both park and forestry men that these areas should be developed for the best interests of the people and that they should be made as available as possible for the recreational use of the people.

BOY SCOUTS EMPHASIZE LEADERSHIP

One of the points on which very little emphasis was placed was the question of leadership. Naturally fire protection and policing were discussed but aside from the suggestion that specialists in nature study should help people to a greater appreciation of the wild life of the parks, there was practically no mention of recreational leadership. An exception was in the case of a talk by Mr. James E. West, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. West's remarks reflected his playground experience and were devoted largely to a discussion of the value and need of leadership and supervision. He stressed the point that the wholesome use of parks depends on organization and leadership and urged that parks should require all groups making use of them to provide competent leadership. At the present time all of the institutional groups conducting camps on the lakes in the Interstate Park are required to provide a competent swimming instructor.

A topic frequently mentioned was the tourist or overnight camp and one of the aims of the conference leaders is to develop a chain of state parks which will provide adequate and inexpensive

overnight camping facilities for tourists. Many of the speakers told of the developments in the various states and there was a general feeling that the providing of camps for automobile tourists was one of the most important features of state parks. A delegate from Colorado made the statement that every Colorado town of one thousand population or more had its municipal camp, whereas a representative of the American Automobile Association stated that Iowa had more camp sites per population than any other state. This doubtless has a certain relation to the fact that there are more than 500,000 automobiles in Iowa. Mr. Edgar R. Harlan, of the Iowa Historical Society, showed very clearly the need for providing for the leisure time of the people in that state where practically the only form of recreation indulged in by the farmer is riding in his car. He stated that 90% of the gasoline consumed in the state of Iowa is used during the leisure time of the people and yet with all their riding, they seldom go beyond the borders of their own county. Mr. Harlan made a plea for developing a park system for Iowa and for providing recreational facilities so that the people may have a more wholesome means of spending their leisure time.

ALLEGANY STATE PARK AS AN EXAMPLE

Mr. Chauncy J. Hamlin, by way of introduction to his talk on the Allegany State Park Commission, made a number of statements of interest to Community Service workers. The following are typical: "Leisure time is the greatest unused asset in the United States." . . . "Parks are approaching the leisure time problem of the United States" . . . "We can find real democracy only on the field of play or in the woods." In stating that there was doubtless more capital invested in commercialized recreation than in any other industry in the United States, Mr. Hamlin emphasized the great importance of providing places where people may spend their leisure in a wholesome manner. The two methods by which Mr. Hamlin indicated the correct use of leisure time might be developed were through games such as tennis and golf, and through instilling in children a love of nature. His talk on the Allegany State Park described the remarkable results which have been secured at moderate expense within a very brief period.

One idea of value to recreation workers was the suggestion by Dr. Charles C. Adams of the New York State College of Forestry, that the

most successful institutions are those where there is a combination of state or national, and private support. He cited cases where donations for park purposes by a group of individuals may be effectively used in approaching state legislatures as a means of securing an additional appropriation. Honorable F. W. Hopkins of the Interstate Park Commission in giving a brief history of the park also emphasized the fact that without the initial private contributions for saving the Palisades, there would have been little likelihood of securing the property. Is it not true that recreation and community workers have often failed to use the example of private contributions as a means of securing municipal support for their activities?

Space does not permit mention of many important subjects discussed at the Conference such as park sanitation, state park legislation, national parks and various state park projects. A word might be added concerning the lantern slides illustrating various state and national park projects which were shown at each of the evening sessions and which proved an instructive and entertaining feature of the conference.

This report would not be complete without mention of Major W. A. Welch, General Manager of the Palisades Interstate Park, and the man whose genius is to a considerable degree responsible for the wonderful developments in the park. The courtesy of Major Welch and his associates was a large factor in making the Conference not only helpful and successful but a most pleasant occasion.

Work and Play*

Parks and Recreation Grounds in Relation to Laborer

To the Editor of The New York Times:

In a recent issue an editorial entitled "More Playgrounds" clearly set out the functions and value of play in our Western civilization. During the latter months of the great war I was a member of a small and relatively independent commission created in the Department of Labor at Washington, merely to have a place to head in, but charged with the duty of speeding up the production of war materials by attention to the living conditions of war workers. This commission promptly found that wages, shelter and food would not alone suffice in obtaining maximum

*Courtesy of the *New York Times*.

or spirited production; recreation was a vital essential.

So in the nation's greatest emergency the relation of recreation to production was quite clearly established.

No less in the times of peace is recreation essential. It needs to be provided locally in the cities and nationally in the great areas usually of unique quality as to scenery or natural attributes set aside as the national parks.

But there is another aspect to which it seems worth while to ask your attention. The community can provide, if it is wise enough, one acre of available play space for every hundred of its population, and if this is well distributed so as to be accessible at no more than a half mile distance from every inhabitant of the community, the local need will be served.

Near New York a wise system of county parks has provided the second adjunct in the recreation program. The Essex County parks do for that section of New Jersey what the communities composing it could not do for themselves.

Near New York is the yet more important item in the recreation program to which I wish to ask your attention. Palisades Interstate Park takes up the duty of the States in this most important matter and provides a superb example of how the greater areas can be made available for uses not possible to be served by either the State or the county. Tens of thousands, yes millions, of our citizens who cannot afford to go to the national parks, who cannot be accommodated in the State or county parks, should come to find the broader areas, the pleasant camping places, the economical Summer vacation opportunities in State Parks, of which Palisades Interstate Park is a notable example.

The American Civic Association has, since its formation in 1904, not only promoted recreational opportunities in general but has particularly attempted to look after the development of our national parks and their protection against the selfish assaults of those who can always see something utilitarian for their own benefit in the public property.

J. HORACE MCFARLAND

President, American Civic Association, Harrisburg, Pa.

Parks and Play and Problems of the Present will be discussed at Atlantic City October 9 - 12.

Putting the Home Town on the Map

"Our Leading Citizen," a Paramount picture by George Ade in which Thomas Meighan is starred, shows how Wingford—"Chamber of Commerce population, 20,000; census population, 9,126"—was finally transformed into a progressive, up-and-coming community with all modern improvements, including a well-equipped playground and a Community House.

When Daniel Bentley, called "Lazy" Dan because he would rather fish than work, returned from the war, he would have been content to unpack his fishing tackle and take up his tiny, unremunerative law practice where he had left off. But a war hero with a decoration from the French government has a reputation to live up to. At least, that was the opinion of Miss Fendle who had discovered during the bombarding of a hospital in France that Dan was capable of big things.

"But what can a man do in Wingford?" asked the bewildered Daniel when the young lady requested him to stop chasing grasshoppers and to do something really worth while.

"He can help put his home town on the map."

So Dan set about to do just that. It was hard sledding at first, especially when the black bass were biting, but he stuck to it. He saw the mayor, and before very long a playground was opened for the children of the town. It was fully equipped with baseball diamond, swings, horizontal bars, and all the regulation playground paraphernalia. Wingford built a Community House, too, and the building that had been used as a gambling club was transformed into a training school where girls could learn to cook.

By this time Daniel Bentley had become accustomed to working for everybody rather than loafing by himself. So, when they asked him to run for Congress, he consented. And, of course, after an exciting tussle with the opposing candidate, a mellifluous talker named Blagdon, he was elected. For Wingford recognized in him her "leading citizen."

Mr. Ade, without being to the slightest degree a propagandist, shows the other side of the "Main Street" problem. Something *can* be done for an uninteresting, sleepy town if the people are really in earnest. And working for the town can do a lot for the people—witness Dan Bentley—by rousing them to concerted community effort.

On Being too Careful*

A Common-Sense Editorial by Bruce Barton

They told me the other day that a big full-blooded friend of ours had broken down at the age of forty-three and was in a sanitarium.

This is not a remarkable bit of news unless you know the circumstances.

The big fellow was one of the famous oarsmen of his time on the crew of an Eastern University. His father's income was sufficient so that our friend has never worked. He has been a traveler, a fisherman, a big-game hunter. His first and almost his only real concern has been to take care of his physical well being.

And he goes to smash at forty-three.

The father, on the contrary, works every day as the president of an important business in a highly competitive field. He is still hitting on all six cylinders at the youthful age of eighty-one.

There is something to think about.

Lord Leverhulme, the great English manufacturer, in a recent letter to a friend quoted this story of Gladstone.

"During the early coaching days, Gladstone used to inquire from the coaches that went out of London through Barnet and St. Albans, whether it was not hard on the horses, and whether the alternative road, which goes through Slough and is fairly level, was not better.

"And he was surprised to find that the horses on the Highgate road lasted half again as long as the horses on the level Slough road. From which he drew the inference that it was variety and change, collar-work at one point and no collar-work at another, that was best for the health of a horse, and in his experience, best for the health of a man."

Gladstone himself was that sort of worker. He knew how to take relaxation and exercise, but he made no effort to spare himself when it came to work. He carried a tremendous load all his life and was sufficiently youthful in old age so that he took up the study of a new language a year or two before the end.

I have no quarrel with the folks who "look after themselves," as the saying goes, who are always cautions not to overwork or be overtired. They doubtless live quite comfortably, but I think they deceive themselves if they imagine that they are going to outlive those who work hard and long.

The man who throws his whole self into his job seems somehow to draw new strength and energy from its uphill and downdale exactions.

And frequently he outlives the chap whose principal care is to be careful.

* Courtesy of the Red Book Magazine

Barnyard Golf in Detroit

E. S. BARTON

Department of Recreation
Detroit, Michigan

Horseshoe pitching, otherwise known as "barnyard golf," is the latest sport to be revived by the Department of Recreation in Detroit, Michigan. Plans are being formulated now to add this ancient game to the long list of recreational activities offered to the people by the city. Regulation courts will be constructed in parks and playgrounds in all parts of the city. The department will

stage tournaments and arrange for inter-city matches. Official horseshoe pitching rules as adopted by the National Horseshoe Pitchers' Association, January 1, 1922, will be used in all league games.

"There is no game more democratic than horseshoe pitching," said C. E. Brewer, Commissioner of Recreation in Detroit. "It attracts the banker and the laborer alike. Its popular appeal is wonderful. Contestants will sometimes play for hours with an interested following watching every throw. The game takes very little room and the cost of a pair of shoes is negligible. I think that horseshoe pitching gives more in return for the time and money spent in it than any other sport."



Using their Leisure time to good advantage.



Some of the striking coal miners of Division 2 of the United Mine Workers of America have used their leisure time to good advantage by building a dam and excavating a swimming pool at Robertsdale, Pennsylvania for community use.



When the fun began.

Paths for Shank's Mare*

Thirteen leading cities, according to the Horse Association of America, have in all five hundred and eleven miles of bridle paths for the use of city riders. Chicago has two hundred miles of gallop through pleasant parks away from the noisy routes of wheels; Boston has one hundred miles. And outside these cities, as around Washington, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Detroit, to mention a few more, are uncounted miles of bridle trails or dirt roads where the horse still holds his own. People on horseback seem to be well protected from the snarl of the klaxon and the swish of the speed demon.

The same protection has been quietly urged by the State Motor Federation for pedestrians. Shanks' mare, too, must have his bridle path. There is scarcely need of explanation; for any one who has walked near a large city on a fine Sunday afternoon will have stories to tell of narrow escapes from annihilation under the forepaws of charging devils. Many country roads are bordered with ditches and brambles; pedestrians must take the chance of running with or against the streams of cars. A stroll around the Speedway during a series of motor races is not more charged with possibilities of a sudden change in one's health.

The outcome is obvious, now that specialization has sneaked its way into the most innocuous of pleasures, an outing in the country. As in rural England we shall have paths running independently of roads. Sidewalks are not enough; they are negative in that they only remove the danger of being run over. To satisfy members of the pedestrians' union, country routes like the trails laid out by hiking clubs and like riding roads must be positively advantageous; they must wind through the prettiest spots, pause where the views are good, run down into hollows and, above all, make detours whenever an auto road confronts them. Such paths would make Sunday walking popular and do for the pedestrian what has been done for the riding horse.

*Courtesy of *New York Times*

Home Play--IV

EDNA G. MEEKER AND CHARLES H. ENGLISH

THE MOTHER AND THE SMALL CHILD

"But I love the modern mother who can share in all the joys,
And who understands the problems of her growing girls and boys;
She may boast that she is sixty, but her heart is twenty-three—
My glorious, bright-eyed mother who is keeping young with me."

Florence Howard Wolcott

Children's play to them is serious and happy work—their occupation. Through it they begin to learn life's lessons and to develop character. Resourcefulness on the part of the parent in devising new things will result in developing the spirit of wholesome home play life which every child should feel and enjoy to the full.

From the earliest period, children should be taught the pleasure of doing things for themselves and for others. They should be encouraged in their natural aptitude in finding in objects about them great play possibilities. Through too many purchased toys a child's imagination and creative ability are checked and his pleasure lessened. A little lad about five years of age, while sitting on the floor surrounded by many gifts, was heard to say with a weary sigh "I've got so many things I don't know what to do." Another child in the same family remarked "I would rather have stones for passengers in my railroad cars than dolls because you can use the stones for so many other things."

The following suggestions to mothers will not come in as new thoughts but will serve as reminders of the things their own mothers taught them.

CHILDREN'S PARTIES

It is always well to have a program prepared so that one can say "Let's play this" and not "What shall we play?" If children ask that a certain game be played, the situation is changed and it may be desirable to make a place for it. If not, a word of explanation is due the child.

The "Party" should begin for the first-comer as soon as he arrives. Very often early comers

may help receive the other guests in showing them where to take off their wraps.

Be ready with a substitute game if undue excitement is aroused or if lack of interest in the game being played is causing restlessness. Perhaps it will only be necessary to make some child "It" in order to restore harmony.

Do not be disappointed if your program does not carry out as you had planned it should, but be ready with substitute games or to make other rearrangements for emergencies in the moods of the children. Never play one game too long. Stop at the zenith of interest.

If boys show signs of being "bored" stunts may usually be depended upon to restore unity of interest.

Avoid the giving of prizes except as they may be of value in adding to the general fun. They may be inexpensive toys that will cause a laugh and appear to be "just for fun."

Besides the leader of the games there should be one or more assistants to keep watchful eyes on the individual children to see that each one is having the kind of happy time he will never forget. The leader of games should never have to be responsible also for individuals who have not caught the spirit of team play. Older children are apt to be the best helpers and the experience is good for them. All game leading should be as inconspicuous as possible, and the leader should be "It" in starting games just as little as possible after she has done her necessary part in teaching a game.

If it seems advisable to use a whistle in starting relay races and other games where a signal is necessary, be careful not to use it for disciplinary purposes also, for it must not lose its meaning as "a part of the game."

Never allow children to "choose sides." It is embarrassing for the last one chosen and causes a moment's unhappiness, at least, for practically each one of the party. Each fears he is going to prove unpopular by being the last one called. *Instead*—line the children up as if for marching and separate them as desired. This is only one of many easy ways of making a happy division.

During the playing of games if one child is "It" too frequently it is well to suggest that he

might like to give one or more of his "turns" to others who have not been "It" and then let him choose each time whom he wants to favor.

For small children it may be found best to serve refreshments early because they are "the party" and little folks have their minds on them until they appear. Afterwards they will enter into the games with more spirit and interest.

When the time comes, never hesitate to say to the children, "We will play just one more game before going home" or perhaps, "Now we will sing a goodbye song. We have been so glad to have you here and want each one of you to come again to see us." Or the announcement may be made in a graceful way that a grand march will lead, at the end, to the cloak room. Have older people ready to help the children with their wraps and to see that all confusion is avoided.

Celebrating Birthdays

Birthdays are naturally "party" days, so if a real party is not to be planned for, a very happy substitute is to allow the child to choose what shall be served for dinner and, perhaps, for the other meals also. A birthday may often be made memorable if the children in the family are permitted to make cookies, cutting them in various shapes and decorating them with currants, raisins, citron or anything mother is prepared to let them have.

If there is no time to make a large birthday cake, as a substitute fill a cake dish with small cup cakes, stick a little candle-holder and candle in each and have them lighted when they are brought in and passed around. If it is summer time the dish may easily be decorated with greens or small flowers.

A simple way of decorating the table for small children is to place a Noah's Ark or a paper "circus" tent in the center of the table, run a strip of green crepe paper from it down to the birthday child's place and from this point all round the table above the plate line. On this have a procession of animal crackers, two by two, standing on flat crackers with the help of a little chocolate icing.

One mother gave a party for her child who was at the toddling age. She removed as much furniture as convenient from the living room, placed a quantity of toys in the center of the floor and, as the wee guests arrived, each one was privileged to chose what he wanted to play with. It was a great success.

Children should be allowed to help in making the birthdays of others happy. Until they are old enough to take the initiative father should help suggest how mother's birthday may be celebrated and mother should help with plans to surprise father on his birthday. Special plans for grandfather's and grandmother's birthdays should be made by all the family.

SOME HELPFUL FACILITIES TO HAVE

The natural pride in ownership with which every child is endowed is a basis for lessons in system, order, thrift and general carefulness.

In every home where there are children, a play room or a special corner in one of the rooms is desirable; but this does not always seem possible and so many mothers have learned how to make necessary and happy adjustments. Some have provided bookcases, closets with drawers, dresser drawers or just shelves in order that each child might have a place to call his "very own" where his collections and other treasures might be safely kept. Every child makes "collections" of various kinds which are his very particular property, and a thoughtful mother never destroys or disposes of any of them without his consent. A child is bound to view such destruction as an injustice.

A play house for girls and a small workshop for boys built in a yard are possible for comparatively few, and yet, if given a little encouragement and allowed some few materials with which to work, children will usually make substitutes that will give employment and play for many hours of many days and weeks.

"Pretending"

Where there is no garden children like to use dining room chairs and old quilts and curtains for house, barn or garage construction. One cannot afford to become impatient with what appears, from the viewpoint of a housekeeper, as disorderly results. But if his work and play are encroaching on the rights and comforts of others to too great an extent a child can be helped to decide for himself the hours of the day when this particular kind of play should be discontinued.

Let children "dress up." The dramatic instinct is strong in them and can be cultivated to make them particularly observant and understanding of others. For is it not then their "business" to interpret well the parts they are playing?

Some mothers have found it helpful to have a very particular time for playing with their children. Often from five to six o'clock is a convenient hour, for "father's time" is apt to be right after supper before the older ones have to settle down to studying lessons or the little folk have to go to bed.

A Surprise Closet

One mother, when her children were small, always had what was known as the "Surprise Closet" for, on one of its shelves were always things which had been stored away for unexpected demands. If someone didn't feel well; if the day was rainy and children restless; if it was suddenly discovered a friend was having a birthday that should be noticed, the magic shelf never failed to meet the need. It never held expensive toys merely the little games and novelties that mean much to a child.

Play Equipment

When children are old enough to know the proper uses they should be provided with scissors, pad, pencils and crayons of their very own. Scissors for young children should have blunt ends.

THINGS TO MAKE

Using Materials at Hand

One mother provided happy times for her four-year-old boy by letting him use as a drum a scrapbasket hung over his head by a cord. There were sticks to beat it with and sometimes the basket was placed on the floor, the cord held in one hand and a stick stuck in the basket and held in the other hand. It could then be guided to do service as a carpet-sweeper or a lawn-mower.

Pin Wheels. For these squares of wrapping paper with the same sized squares of pretty wall paper for linings, make attractive toys and splendid "occupation" work for children. Clothespins may well be used if suitable twigs or other sticks are not at hand.

Macaroni Beads. For children at the bead-stringing age dried pieces of macaroni make inexpensive chains.

Electric Dancers. Cut little figures—dolls perhaps are the easiest—out of tissue paper, making them little more than half an inch long, and lay them on the table. Put a piece of window-pane glass about one and a half inches over them, supported on each side with books or magazines.

Rub the glass briskly with a piece of woolen cloth or of silk and the figures will perform remarkable antics. This works best when there is considerable electricity in the air; it can hardly be done if a room is very warm.

Sail Boats. A half of a walnut shell makes a splendid little boat, and a whole fleet of sail boats for a basin or the bath tub may be made by cutting little paper sails, sticking a piece of toothpick through each and fastening this mast to the bottom of the walnut shell by dropping in it a few drops of sealing wax or candle grease. Children can make these for themselves by using a bit of taffy or chewing gum.

Tops. Small tops may be made from wooden button molds or spools by sticking a piece of wood through the hole, making a dull point at one end and having the stick protrude at the other end just enough to twist it to make it spin.

Ink Serpents. Put one teaspoonful of salt in a glass of water. Dip the point of a pen first in ink and then in the water. Little serpents will form from the ink.

Salt Formations. Put a quantity of salt in a glass and add a little water. A small goblet or a sherbet glass with a stem of irregular lines will be best to use. Keep this in a warm room and occasionally add a little water, as the original supply evaporates. In the process of evaporation the salt will be carried up the sides of the glass and in time will form a sparkling white crust not only inside but over the top and on the outside of the glass.

Paper Money. Put a coin under a piece of white writing paper and rub the flat top of a lead pencil over it until a perfect impression of the coin has been transferred to the paper.

Tracing and Pricking Pictures. The tracing and pricking of pictures which are afterward held up to the light is a game and occupation for small children and a lesson in accuracy. For older children this has a definite value as a means of transferring patterns and designs. Before pricking the picture, put under it a piece of waxed paper. Next place the waxed paper over the cloth in which it is desired to have the design and with a dauber made perhaps from a piece of old black stocking, rub lamp black over it. The waxed paper stencil may be used many times.

Match-Box Toys. With a little ingenuity many toys may be made out of match boxes. Split that part of the cover which is double to

make the peaked roof of a house or barn. Paste paper over the whole and draw in doors and windows. Furniture, too, may be made easily.

Candy Dolls. With a supply of round and of long narrow gumdrops and a few toothpicks children will soon see the possibilities for making dolls. The long ones, of course, will have to be cut in two to make the hands and the feet. Lollipops, too, make a beginning for great variety of dolls with cardboard funnels to hold them up and tissue paper for clothes. Hairpins make a foundation for arms. When making taffy children can have added fun by putting round balls of it on sticks, flattening the balls out, pressing little seedless raisins around the top for hair and using candies or some cereals for features for these candy doll heads.

Fruit and Vegetable Dolls. These may be made by sticking one end of a pencil or of a clothespin into a piece of fruit or a "round" vegetable and then fitting it into the neck of a bottle. Paper may have to be used to make it fit. With this for head and body children will see many doll possibilities. Perhaps the blue ends of safety matches will supply eyes, pins may make a satisfactory nose, a set of rice teeth may suggest a charming mouth and some yarn will add the necessary hair. Perhaps, too, crayons will make hair and features that will be all a child desires. Crepe paper will make the best kind of clothing. Fruits used in this way will keep for a considerably longer time if dipped in paraffin.

Fish Pond. This game may be made by covering the top of a good-sized cardboard box with paper on which may be crayoned or painted a "pond." Cut in this small slits into which will

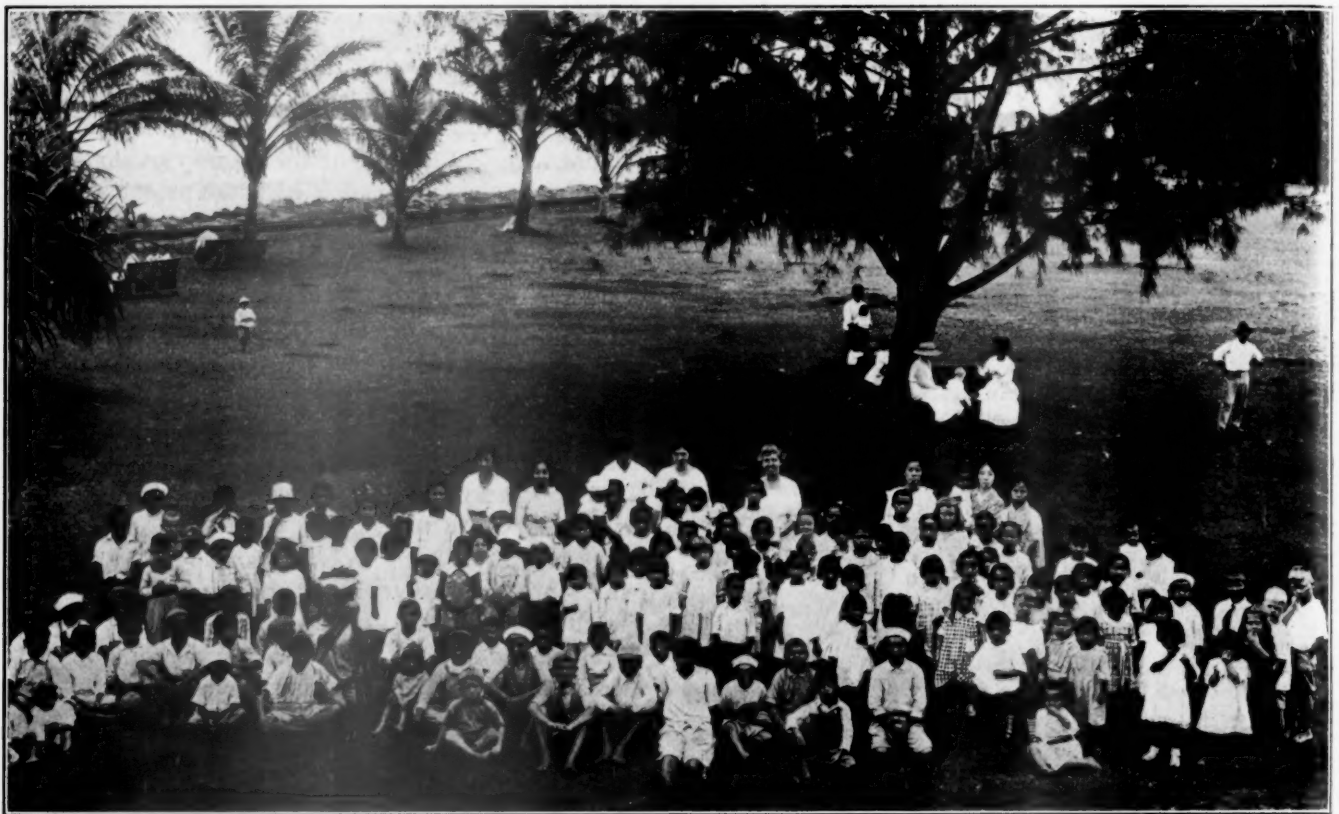
fit the cardboard fish previously cut out and colored, to the mouths of which have been fastened little loops of small wire (a strand from picture wire will do). The fishing may be done with small sticks from each of which will hang a cord with a piece of stout wire for a hook.

Using Empty Spools. Very little children always enjoy strings of spools made into chains. As they get older they like to use them in the buildings they make with their wooden blocks. Still larger children utilize them in manufacturing toys. They can make small stands to hold some of their treasures, in the following way. Take four heavy wires, three or four flat boards of the same size with holes bored in the corner of each. Fit a large spool on one end of each wire, run the wires through one of the boards for the bottom shelf, string four spools on each wire and add another board shelf; string on each wire four more spools, add another board shelf; string on each wire four more spools, add another shelf and finish by fitting a spool on the top of each wire, cutting the wire off if it extends beyond the top of the spool. It will add to the pleasure and the value of this stand if the child is allowed to paint it.

Cheese-box Stands. With three broom handles of equal length, two cheese boxes which grocers often have to give away, a hammer and some small nails, children can be helped to make a very good toy receptacle. If a girl makes it she may want to use it as a sewing stand. The broom handles should be nailed to the boxes on the outside so that they form a three-legged stand with two box-shelves. This, too, will be improved by paint.

The two principal forms of opportunity are leisure and education. All environments are valuable to the development of genius only insofar as they secure education. Leisure must be regarded as a means of education. Leisure was the great school of mankind before there was any such thing as positive education. Leisure began with the priesthood and to it we owe all we possess of early Indian, Chinese, Chaldean, and Egyptian learning. The ruling class in Greece and Rome possessed it. But for it they would have accomplished but little in art, literature, and philosophy. But it must not be supposed that all the leisure mankind have enjoyed has been well employed; most of it has always been either wasted or worse than wasted.

LESTER F. WARD



Group at playground conducted under auspices of the Young Women's Christian Association at Mooheau Park, Hilo, Hawaii—Pacific ocean in background. Nationalities represented:—American, Scotch, English, Hawaiian, Portugese, Japanese, Armenian, Filipino, and Russian.

What Farm Women Think About Farm Life

The Farmer's Wife, a magazine for farm women, issued in St. Paul, recently asked its readers to express an opinion on this subject—"If you had a daughter of marriageable age would you, in the light of your own experience, want her to marry a farmer?" Seven thousand women responded, ninety-four per cent of them in the affirmative, and in enthusiastic terms. Some of the reasons which they gave for their preference for rural life are as follows:

Growing children need out-of-door life and play

Working with productive nature is inspiring

Out-of-door work develops body, and mind, and tones nerves

Farm family is a unit in its work and pleasures
Tremendous joy of working with nature's creative forces

Crime in the country at a minimum

Dissipation and frivolity at a minimum in the country

Real neighbors found in the country and true neighboring develops best sort of character
Children learn to assume responsibility as early as they learn to play

The best of educational opportunities now within reach of practically all farm folks
Farm life not lonely; farm woman not a drudge
The six per cent of the women who voted "no" gave among other reasons the following:

Never a leisure hour

Nothing to lighten the labor and monotony

Little opportunity for moral and spiritual advance for children

Lack of amusement

No time to enjoy beauties of nature

Farm women fail to develop talents given them

Too tired to go to church and entertainments

Dull monotony of prolonged household drudgery becomes intolerable

Farm woman lacks educational influences which broaden scope of vision

In view of these conflicting opinions the fact that so large a percentage were enthusiastic about life in the country is encouraging for the future of the American home in rural districts.

Recreation in Porto Rico

The need for recreation in Porto Rico and the steps which have been taken to meet this need are described in an article—*Child Welfare in Porto Rico*—by Helen V. Bary of The Children's Bureau, which appeared in the June issue of *Mother and Child*.

"Wholesome, normal play, which we take for granted to be a part of the American child's birthright, had never before been given the little Americans of Porto Rico. The physical and psychological benefits of playing together, of developing teamwork and the spirit of fair play, had been denied them. During the year play has been introduced as a regular part of the program of nearly one hundred schools throughout the island, and the interest and eagerness with which both teachers and children have joined in playing such games as 'Hot Potato,' 'London Bridge,' and a hundred other American games, has shown the need and the way to fill it.

"For older boys universal participation in games and athletics has been the goal advocated by the Children's Bureau. The first peacetime activity of the army in 1898 was baseball, but this was adopted by the Porto Ricans as a sport on which to gamble rather than as a game to be played. The Department of Education has co-operated with the Bureau by adding eight athletic instructors to its staff, athletic leagues have been organized all over the island, various field meets have been held, hundreds of games of basketball and baseball have been played, and school athletics have crowded other sports off the sporting pages of the newspapers. From the citizens in general the movement has met with generous response. Land for playgrounds and athletic fields has been donated and citizens' committees have helped to build fences and grandstands and to provide equipment."

From Country Club to City Recreation Park

Put the question of the democracy of golf to Long Beach, California, and they'll tell you golf is decidedly a people's game. For fifty cents any Long Beach resident may play golf all day on the municipal links. If he prefers, four dollars a month or twenty dollars a year will entitle him to golfing privileges. This is because the city

has acquired the clubhouse and grounds of a former country club, and the greensward once enjoyed by a few is now open to everyone. There is a municipal golf instructor who will teach would-be players the game. The clubhouse, with its rest rooms and fireplace, has been opened to the public.

Golf is not the only sort of recreation this new playground is bringing to Long Beach. A stone's throw east of the clubhouse is an old reservoir, now dry. This is being turned into a week-end camp for Boy Scouts. Another abandoned reservoir is being turned into a handball court. There will also be volley ball and basketball courts and a playground for children. On the park diamond men of the Pacific fleet will play many of their inter-ship championship baseball games.

The park extends a cordial welcome to the city's visitors. In a beautiful eucalyptus grove an eighth of a mile south of the clubhouse is a municipal automobile camp which will provide stalls for four hundred automobiles. Wash racks for travel-stained cars, shower baths for travel-stained tourists and a community kitchen with eighteen gas plates are free facilities under construction. The auto campers' children will have their own playground. Several Long Beach families have announced their intention of sharing all these good things with the visitors. Though minus automobiles, they are going to enjoy frequent vacations in the camp.

A Second Play Week for Visalia, California

Visalia has celebrated its second annual play week held under the auspices of Community Service.

Saturday, May 6th, was children's day, when the May Queen and her court held sway, and there were groups of songs and folk dances by the children and a May pole.

Monday was storytelling day and fairies, Indians, Gypsies and animals were all at the auditorium to tell stories to the children.

On Tuesday at the auditorium community music was the chief attraction. Playing by the high school orchestra, community singing, groups of songs and selections by a male quartette made up the program.

Fun Nite on Wednesday was to many the best

part of the week. An old-fashioned community mixer gave all who came, old and young, a chance to enjoy a good time.

Community dramatics were an important part of the program and on Thursday the Community Players' Club presented *The Salt Cellar*, a black-face comedy, *Echoes of Minstrelsy* and a musical *Down on the Farm*.

Boys' day, on Friday, under the direction of the Rotary Club was inaugurated with a parade of all the boys of the city, prizes being given for best entries, floats, pets and costumes. Immediately following the parade came field sports at the high school with races and contests of all kinds. Best of all from the boys' point of view was the banquet with its program of songs, toasts, stunts and a play by the Boy Scouts.

On Saturday the girls, not to be outdone by the boys, had a parade "open to girls from nine to ninety." This was followed by a banquet at the Young Women's Christian Association served by the Girl Reserves. At eight o'clock came a frolic of girls on the street called *No Man's Land*.

Richmond's Play Campaign

Since Community Service of Richmond, Indiana, put on a campaign to interest the city in more play, not only children, but grown-ups have had more real fun than they ever believed possible. How to play in the home, the neighborhood, the school, the church—even in the hospital, was taught.

The enrollment at the three-day play institute reached one hundred and sixty. The first hour of each session was devoted to educational work for parents and teachers, while community games for all occasions were demonstrated during the second hour. Into the academic atmosphere of Earlham College was introduced a new and popular study—instruction in leading musical games and games for rural gatherings. Parochial school children learned some attractive new games from the Sisters, with whom the Community Service game leader had spent a few hours. Play can have a definite place in a hospital, as nurses found when they were taught bedside games and others suitable for convalescents, as well as games that would help to make their own gatherings really recreative.

A city-wide enthusiasm about home play was one of the most important things brought about by the campaign. Each evening the newspapers published directions for several games which parents could play with their children. Not a few tired business men discovered that an after-supper romp was just as amusing for them as for "the kids." Richmond's parents and children have found out a lot of interesting things about one another that they didn't know before.

How We Cooperated With the Playgrounds

"Playgrounds in Cincinnati, Ohio, during the summer of 1921 were nineteen in number. Seven are controlled by the Board of Education and twelve by the Board of Park Commissioners.

The Public Library cooperated with all playgrounds. Books for boys and girls have a place on every ground. In past years we have tried several plans, but the one used last season was found most satisfactory. Playground use is very hard on books and for this reason we used last summer discarded books which were too shabby for the shelves of the children's room, but still capable of being read a few times before becoming waste paper. Cases holding from thirty to forty books and having a padlock on the door were packed at the main library. One case was sent each playground. Supplementary bundles of discarded books were sent to the larger playgrounds about the middle of the season. Practically all books were waste paper when returned to the library the week the playgrounds closed. The reports from the playground directors indicate that the books were read and gave much pleasure.

In the past year the library has helped with storytelling on the playground. Under our present plan all playground directors received training in storytelling at the Playground Institute held at the University of Cincinnati. The library helps to find and suggest stories. To meet this need it has compiled a list called "Tested Stories" which may be secured for five cents a copy. Copies of this list were distributed to all directors last spring and many of the stories suggested were told on the playgrounds during the summer.—From the Director of Children's Work.

An Appreciation Day

"There is no such thing as gratitude!" How, often we hear someone make this remark—and why? Is it because people are generally unappreciative? Surely not! Isn't it rather because they have no opportunity to show in a big way how really grateful they are?

Not long ago some school children in a big New England city were given a real chance to show their gratitude to a man who had donated for their use a beautiful park which bears his name.

This was due to the thoughtfulness and initiative of Mrs. Jeremiah Holmes, President of the Federation of Parent-Teachers Associations, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, who conceived the idea of honoring this great benefactor, James W. Beardsley, by instituting an Appreciation Day when the children of the Huntington Road School near the Beardsley Park—might have a chance to say "Thank You" for the many happy hours they had spent in the beautiful meadows and wooded hills nearby. And how the children and teachers did respond! On Flag Day they marched to the park 500 strong, with an American flag and a drum corps at the head of the procession. A boy headed each of the twelve companies, carrying a floral wreath, and a girl marched by his side with a bouquet of flowers. Before the statue of their benefactor, all stopped in reverence. The mayor was there to express the appreciation of the city; a Board of Education representative expressed gratitude for the great out-of-door schoolhouse which had been added to the city's educational equipment through the donor's efforts; another public-spirited citizen told the children about the life of John Beardsley. Then one by one, the groups came forward and placed the wreaths and bouquets on the statue, expressing in their childish voices, such sentiments as the following: "We are grateful to Mr. Beardsley and to the others who gave us our parks." "We are grateful for the flowers which reveal to us God's love of beauty" . . . "for the brook which chatters and sings as it goes to join the brimming river" . . . "for the swings and the teeter boards on which we have such good times" . . . "for the green grass on which we romp and roll" . . . "for the pond in which our faces smile back at us"—and—from the littlest kindergarten children—"for the big iron lion on whose back we climb and who will

let us hug him."

No one present could doubt the sincerity of their appreciation and the donor could have desired no more beautiful expression than these genuine statements of gratitude from the children.

College Girls Brighten Child Life with Stories

Agnes Riser, Department of Expression,
Simmons College, Abilene, Texas.

During the winter term the Expression Department offered a course in Storytelling related to child Psychology. The outstanding characteristics of child life were first briefly studied. Then stories were studied for their apperceptive basis, sense appeal, interest to catch involuntary attention, suspense element, climax, dramatic value, aid to verbal expression, and stimulative power of the emotions. Members of the classes told stories which had in them the above named qualities, and other qualities found in good stories. The classes listened as a group of children to help the storyteller convey her message.

Later members of the classes were assigned places to tell stories to children. One place was the Sunshine Nursery. Every Thursday morning stories were told by girls from Simmons College. The Sunshine Nursery is a place where children are cared for during the day, while their parents work. The children would often retell the stories, or act them.

Another place was the weekly Story-Hour at the Young Women's Christian Association building, on Saturday at three thirty o'clock.

Also on Sunday at the Sunbeam Band the Simmons girls told stories.

Several special programs were asked for. Lincoln, Easter, Washington, and St. Patrick's Day programs were arranged and given. In this case many stories had to be "made over" to suit age and surroundings.

Stories were used from various sources; Magazines, "Firelight Stories," by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey; and "For the Storyteller" by the same author was used for a text. Myths and Bible Stories were also used.

At the First Baptist church in Abilene, Texas, there is what is called The Storytelling class. In this class girls learn how to tell stories from the Bible to all ages.

More About Street Showers

Writes Mr. J. R. Batchelor, "Detroit today (July 17, 1922) is starting out an especially recruited force to handle its street showers using one of the best things I have yet seen in the arrangement devised by Fire Chief Rumsey of Detroit.

"After securing practically every known shower and trying them all out the Chief set his men to work devising something more practical. After experimenting all winter this new shower is the outcome. For convenience, it beats all, being only about two feet long and the whole equipment including shower, pipe wrench and red flags to control traffic, being made for less than \$5.00. It has a further advantage in that it can be carried by one hand.

"The shower is simple in construction consisting of a piece of two inch galvanized pipe about two feet long attached to a coupling with holes drilled into it so that it sends a dome of water from eight to ten feet high within a radius of about one hundred feet."

A Church Community Center

The First Baptist Church of Mangum, Oklahoma, a town of 3,405 population, is doing a real community work, as the following schedule indicates:

I. Public Library and Reading Room.

Current periodicals and leading papers. Hundreds of good books. Week days 2 to 6 p. m. Sundays 2 to 4 p. m.

II. Assembly Hall

Available for Concerts, Lectures, Meetings, Rehearsals, etc. Afternoons and Evenings

III. Hospitality Rooms (Church Parlors)

Available with equipment for Societies, Clubs and Social entertainments. Afternoons and evenings

IV. Playground

Available with apparatus and equipment for physical training activities and group and mass games

Intermediate Boys and Girls Wednesdays 4 to 6
Beginners Age 3 to 5: Saturdays 2 to 4 p. m.

Primary Children. Age 6 to 8: Mondays 4 to 6 p. m.

Junior Boys and Girls. Age 9 to 12: Tuesdays 4 to 6 p. m.

Intermediate Boys and Girls. Age 13 to 16: Wednesdays 4 to 6 p. m.

Senior, Young Men and Women. Age 17 and up: Thursdays 8 to 10 p. m.

Adult Men and Women. Fridays 8 to 10 p. m.

Tennis, Croquet, Volley Ball. Senior and Adults: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 4 to 10 p. m.

V. Shower Baths

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 2 to 6 p. m.

VI. Game Room

Available for chess, dominoes, krokinole, checkers and other quiet games.

Play Leadership Scores Again

The ward playgrounds of Towanda, Pennsylvania, were in disgrace. People who lived near them complained of noise and rowdiness that continued late into the evening and disturbed their rest. There had been a serious accident on one of the playgrounds. The Borough Council decided that drastic steps must be taken. The curfew law requiring children to be off the streets by 8:30 or 9:00 would be enforced. If the children could not be orderly about their play they would be refused playground privileges.

Community Service, newly organized in the city, knew that the solution of the problem lay not in suppression but in direction of play. Community Service started a course to train two play leaders for each of the three ward playgrounds and came to the Borough Council with a plan to place leaders on the playgrounds six days a week. The plan was eagerly accepted and now playground difficulties are fast vanishing.

An important factor in the campaign for liberty and the pursuit of happiness for the city's children was "Zip" a feature of the Towanda Daily Review, whose sayings are full of homely wisdom. Zip is always ready to champion a good cause, and is a strong ally of Community Service. "They is one kick I wanta make," said Zip, in reference to the curfew, "'Cause I got an idea they is gonna be pretty rough on some of us young fellows what maybe don't like goin' to bed at 9 p. m." When Zip heard that Community Service was going to supervise the playgrounds, he closed a column of rejoicing as follows, "I say Community Service is doin' one more good thing on top o' all the rest. I'm for 'em, every time. Ain' tchu?"

Interesting Playground Figures

Statistics for the most part are very dull, but not so those issued by the Department of Recreation of Detroit. A study of figures relating to the attendance at the playground of Detroit for the fiscal year ending July 1st, 1922, shows that of the total attendance of 6,428,873, 45.4% represents adult participation and that of this attendance the ratio is three to one in favor of the men.

The per capita cost for the past five years which has been estimated by dividing the amount spent on maintenance and salaries by the attendance is as follows:

July 1917-1918	\$1154
July 1918-19191024
July 1919-19200739
July 1920-19210718
July 1921-19220501

The appropriation for 1922 and 1923 totals \$420,000 for maintenance and \$178,490 for capital cost. This represents a tax of one mill, or in other words, one cent out of every dollar coming into the Treasury of the City of Detroit from taxes goes to the Department of Recreation. The Department of Parks and Boulevards receives 1.8c; to the schools are apportioned 33.9c.

How One Town Saved \$20,000

And Had More Fun Than If They'd Spent It
"Never again," was the verdict of a central Pennsylvania town of 10,000 people after last summer's baseball program. The times are too hard to spend \$20,000 just for a baseball team." This was decided at the risk of making the community "a dead one," as the professional baseball team had provided the town with its principal summer amusement.

But the summer of 1922 has proved the liveliest summer the town has ever spent. Community Service was organized during the spring, and started a program of amateur athletics. Everybody has been given a chance to get into the game. Twilight baseball games between Sunday Schools, industries and fraternities have put many former bleacherites out on the diamond, but the playing is good enough to keep the bleachers still filled. Volley ball has been introduced to the town and found well worth playing and watching.

A sport formerly unthought of—horseshoe pitching—has aroused the greatest enthusiasm. Dozens of small courts have sprung up on the

town's vacant lots and road spaces. Three large spaces are lighted for evening games and are nightly the scene of exciting tournaments. Spectators line the ropes three deep. A "ringer" gets louder cheers than did a home run by the local Babe Ruth last year. Each team has a following ready to give it encouragement and to shout good natured raillery at its rivals. Officials carefully determine relative distances of shoes and keep the scores, while a fife and drum corps adds to the occasions.

Automobile after automobile draws up to see what the cheering is about, and, as the games progress, new spectators are constantly added. A leading citizen who had to keep an appointment drove past the horseshoe pitching one night and looked back reluctantly at the crowd. "I haven't seen so many out for a game since we had our \$20,000 baseball team," he said, "And this doesn't cost us a cent!"

A Coal Community's Center

Within a busy Kansas mining town is a building that has made a coal center also a real community. The Crowe Coal Company believes that recreation makes happier employees, and so invested \$30,000 in an up-to-date community house for Croweburg.

The gymnasium is a community center in itself. It serves for such varying occasions as the County High School basketball tournament, the County Christian Endeavor Rally, community entertainments and Sunday School classes. It is equipped with all manner of trapezes and has a bowling alley which is in constant use. The portable boxing ring, measuring twenty-four square feet, was declared by Eddie Cochrane, sporting editor of the *Kansas City Journal*, "One of the best rings I've seen west of the Mississippi." The polished floor lends itself to roller skating and dancing as well as to basketball, volley ball and indoor baseball. A thousand portable seats turn the gymnasium into an auditorium. There is a stage with two sets, footlights and flood lights, and there are two motion picture machines. Free motion picture shows are given three times a week, and occasionally vaudeville acts are imported at nominal cost.

Two cosy reading rooms, one for men and the other for women, are well patronized. These rooms are used regularly for American Legion and Boy Scout meetings and are at the disposal

of any other group when these organizations are not using them. The basement has locker rooms and showers. Plans are under way for a large banquet hall in the basement. When this is finished Croweburg will have a place suitable for holding entertainments like the rabbit banquet they had last fall. Two teams of mine employees, headed by foremen, started on a rabbit hunt. The team bringing back the least game had to turn cooks and serve to the victors the spoils, roasted to perfection and accompanied by all the "fixin's."

Part of the grounds of the community house are given over to a children's playground, which has a lattice-work playhouse, lighted for evening fun. There is also an enclosed baseball field on the grounds, with a grand stand that will accommodate seven hundred spectators. The town's baseball teams are furnished with uniforms and equipment by the Crowe Company. The community spirit and good times the baseball games bring about are another excellent argument for the company's recreation policy.

A Block Dance and Street Carnival

Community Service of Bradford, Pennsylvania, recently raised between \$500 and \$600 by a block dance and street carnival.

Preparation

A small but active committee met to outline the celebration. Sub-committees were appointed and put to work. A committee visited the Mayor, and through him the Council voted to allow the public square and three adjoining streets to be roped off at sundown on the two days of the carnival. Rope was obtained from a large trucking concern and the Fire Department, which generally chafes in idleness between calls, was enlisted to put up the ropes. The Gas Company loaned pipe standards with heavy metal bases on which to string the ropes. The local Electric Light Company strung long lines of vari-colored lights over the dance pavilion and throughout the booths and other parts of the carnival area.

Block Dance

About a hundred feet of the smoothest pavement was roped off on four sides with an opening toward the public square. Chains with snap hooks were strung on the entrance and a platform was erected by the Street Department. The strings of lights met in the center with a large

"Welcome" sign. Tickets for dancing, at ten cents a dance, were sold in a small booth near the entrance of the pavilion. Eight attendants took the tickets as each dance ended. Policemen and Boy Scouts guarded the side ropes. The pavement had been flushed by the Fire Department and sprinkled with about twenty-five pounds of corn meal. The dance feature did not bring in great revenue but it added to the popularity of the carnival and the whole carnival area had the benefit of the orchestra.

Refreshments

The Women's Club happened to be on one of the streets reserved for the carnival, and tables were set inside the club and on the sidewalk after the manner of Parisian street cafes. Sandwiches, coffee, cake and ice-cream were on sale, and the tables were attractively lighted.

Carnival Attractions

Booths for sales and side-shows were erected along the sidewalks. Candy, groceries and lamp dolls which had been obtained from merchants were sold on concession. Fortune tellers spun their webs of fate inside three enclosed automobiles. The sale of balloons was very profitable. The balloons had been bought by the gross from a wholesale novelty house and blown up with gas furnished free of charge by a local soda manufacturer. Large returns with no expense were realized from the White Elephant Sale. The booth's insignia was a huge elephant cut out of white cloth and pinned to a black background with the one word, "Sale" underneath. Articles ranging from beaded bags to bronze kettles had been collected, wrapped, and graded according to value. Packages were sold at ten, fifteen and twenty-five cents.

What Unique Activity Does Your Playground Conduct?

The Park Department of Saratoga conducted during the past season at each playground a series of "moonlight dances." A schedule of dances was arranged for each Wednesday and Friday evening during the playground season. An orchestra of four pieces furnished the music and the tennis courts, swimming pools and baseball diamonds provided space for dancing. Large flood lights illumined the space during the hours of dancing from eight to eleven p. m. At the

(Continued on Page 296)

The Question Box

Question:

Will you please print a typical playground law?

Answer:

The following is a senate bill introduced in the State of New York in 1922:

AN ACT

To amend the general municipal law, in relation to playgrounds and neighborhood recreation centers in certain municipalities.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Sections two hundred and forty, two hundred and forty-one and two hundred and forty-two of chapter twenty-nine of the laws of nineteen hundred and nine, entitled "An act relating to municipal corporations, constituting chapter twenty-four of the consolidated laws," as added by chapter two hundred and fifteen of the laws of nineteen hundred and seventeen, are hereby amended to read respectively as follows:

§ 240. Application of article. This article shall apply to cities of the second and third class, to any county outside of the city of New York, and to towns and villages. The term "municipality," as used in this chapter, includes only a city of the second and third class, a county outside the city of New York, a town and a village.

§ 241. Dedication or acquisition of land or buildings for playgrounds or neighborhood recreation centers. The board of estimate and apportionment of a city, or if there be no such board, the common council, board of aldermen or corresponding legislative body, or the [board of trustees] governing board of [a] any county outside of the city of New York, or of a town or village, may designate and set apart for use as playgrounds or neighborhood recreation centers any land or building owned by such [city or village] municipality and not dedicated or devoted to another inconsistent public use; or such [city or village] municipality may, with the approval of such local authorities and in such manner as may be authorized or provided by law for the acquisition of land for public purposes in such [city or village] municipality, acquire lands in such [city or village] municipality for playgrounds or neighborhood recreation centers, or if there be no law authorizing such acquisition, the board of estimate and apportionment of such city, or if there be no such board, the common council, board of aldermen or corresponding legislative body, or the [board of trustees of a] governing board of any such county, town or village, may acquire land for such purpose by gift, private purchase or by condemnation, or may lease lands or buildings in such [city or village] municipality for temporary use for such purpose.

§ 242. Administration, equipment and operation. The authority to establish and maintain playgrounds and neighborhood recreation centers may be vested in the school board, park board, or other existing body or in a recreation commission as the board of estimate and apportionment, common council, board of aldermen or corresponding legislative body, or the [board of trustees in a] governing board of any such county, town or village, shall determine. The local authorities of [a city or village] any such municipality designated to equip, operate and maintain playgrounds and neighborhood recreation centers as authorized by this article, may equip such playgrounds and recreation centers, and the buildings thereon, and may construct, maintain and operate in connection therewith public baths and swimming pools. Such local authorities may, for the purposes of carrying out the object of such playgrounds or recreation centers, employ play leaders, playground directors, supervisors, recreation secretary, superintendent or such other officers or employees as they deem proper.

§ 2. Section two hundred and forty-three of such chapter, as added by chapter two hundred and fifteen of the laws of nineteen hundred and seventeen, and amended by chapter six hundred and fifteen of the laws of nineteen hundred and twenty, is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 243. Recreation commission. If the board of estimate and apportionment, or if there be no such board, the common council, board of aldermen, or corresponding legislative body, or the [board of trustees of a] governing board of any such county, town or village shall determine that the power to equip, operate and maintain playgrounds and recreation centers shall be exercised by a recreation commission, they may, by resolution, establish in such [city or village] municipality a recreation commission, which shall possess all the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities of local authorities under this article. Such a commission, if established, shall consist of five persons who are residents of such [city or village] municipality, to be appointed by the mayor of such city or the [trustees] governing board of such county, town or village to serve for terms of five years or until their successors are appointed, except that the members of such commission first appointed shall be appointed for such terms that the term of one commissioner shall expire annually thereafter. If pursuant to this section a recreation commission

be established in a city, the board or body establishing such commission may by resolution, provide that the president of the board of education and the president of the park board of such city, or officers having corresponding functions, shall be ex-officio members of the commission. Members of such commission shall serve without pay. Vacancies in such commission occurring otherwise than by expiration of term shall be for the unexpired term and shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments.

§ 3. Section two hundred and forty-four-a of such chapter, as added by chapter six hundred and fifteen of the laws of nineteen hundred and twenty, is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 244-a. Acceptance of donations. A recreation commission or other authority in which is vested the power to equip, operate and maintain playgrounds and neighborhood recreation centers pursuant to this article may accept any grant or devise of real estate or any gift or bequest of money or other personal property or any donation to be applied principal or income for either temporary or permanent use for playground or recreation purposes, but if the use thereof for such purpose will subject the [city or village] municipality to expenses for improvement, maintenance or renewal, the use of any grant or devise of real estate shall be approved by the board or body establishing such recreation commission or other authority. Money received for such purpose, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the gift or bequest, shall be deposited with the treasurer of the [city or village] municipality to the account of the recreation commission or other such authority, and the same may be withdrawn and paid out in the same manner as money appropriated for recreation purposes.

§ 4. Sections two hundred and forty-five and two hundred and forty-six of such chapter, as added by chapter two hundred and fifteen of the laws of nineteen hundred and seventeen, are hereby amended to read respectively as follows:

§ 245. Expenses incurred under article. All expenses incurred under this article coming within the annual appropriation therefor (as provided in section two hundred and forty-six of Senate, No. 141,

2 this article) shall be a [city or village] charge against the municipality incurring the same, payable from the current funds of such [city or village] municipality; but the local authorities may provide that the bonds of such [city or village] municipality may be issued in the manner provided by law for the acquisition of lands or buildings for playgrounds or neighborhood recreation centers, subject, however, to the adoption of a proposition therefor at a [city or village] municipal election, if the adoption of such a proposition is a prerequisite to the issuance of bonds of such [city or village] municipality for public purposes generally.

§ 246. Annual appropriation. The local authorities of a [city or village] municipality having power to appropriate money therein may annually appropriate and cause to be raised by taxation in such [city or village] municipality a sum sufficient to carry out the provisions of this article.

§ 5. Such chapter, as added by chapter two hundred and fifteen of the laws of nineteen hundred and seventeen, is hereby amended by inserting therein, after section two hundred and forty-four-a, a new section, to be section two hundred and forty-four-b, to read as follows:

§ 244-b. Joint playgrounds or neighborhood recreation centers. Any two or more such municipalities may jointly acquire property for and operate and maintain playgrounds or neighborhood recreation centers. Any school board or district shall have power to join with any such municipality in equipping, operating and maintaining playgrounds and neighborhood recreation centers and may appropriate money therefor.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

Question:

Will you please print a typical summer playground program.

Answer:

The following is the program used on the York, Pennsylvania, playgrounds. Of course any program must be adapted to local conditions and perhaps vary from day to day.

PROGRAM

9:00 to 10:00 a. m.

Assembly, patriotic program, suggestions, flag salute, singing, stories of citizenship

Free play for older children on apparatus, ring

Explanation—Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

- games, and story plays—organized work for small children under direction of leaders
- 10:00 to 11:30 a. m.
Class work—painting—sewing—wood-carving of weaving; directed by play leader
Free play on apparatus for small children
- 11:30 to 12:00 a. m.
Relays—ball games—folk dancing
- 12:00 to 1:30 p. m.
Luncheon hour—picnic parties—ground under direction of Junior Police
- 1:30 to 2:00 p. m.
Free play
- 2:00 to 3:00 p. m.
Organized games, volley ball, basket ball, dodge, end, baseball, organization of new teams, clubs, etc. Directed to play leader
- 3:00 to 3:30 p. m.
Singing, games, folk dances. Directed by play leader
- 3:30 to 4:30 p. m.
Story hour conducted by play leader or special story teller. Attendance taken
- 4:30 to 5:30 p. m.
Free play, relay races, quoit tournaments, etc. Generally supervised by leader
- 5:30 to 6:30 p. m.
Supper hour. Ground under direction of Junior Police
- 6:30 to 7:00 p. m.
Appoint captains to look after all children of school age. The leader is free for older groups.
- 7:00 to 8:00 p. m.
Organized games for older girls and adults—basket ball, end ball, volley ball, sings, entertainments, etc., under direction of play leader. Free play on apparatus. Games, etc., for older boys
- 8:00 to 9:00 p. m.
Organized work among older boys—clubs—quoit tournaments—twilight leagues—base ball, basket ball, volley ball, etc.
- A. M.—Special attention to children under ten years
P. M.—Special attention to children ten to fourteen years
Evening.—Special attention to working boys and girls over fourteen and adults
- During the summer special programs were conducted during the day—exhibitions, play festivals, mothers' parties, etc.

JUNIOR POLICE

A Junior Police organization was formed at each center. Any child was eligible who assumed the responsibility of caring for the conduct and general improvement of their adopted center. A Junior Police badge bearing the color of their center was worn by those passing the first examination given by the play leaders.

Question: Does Community Service aim to conserve the spiritual values of play?

Answer: I have always believed in the leisure time movement as a spiritual movement. More than ten years ago I requested Dr. Knox of Union Theological Seminary to speak for us on play and the higher life. Dr. Knox at that time pointed out that it is only as man keeps himself a playful human being, receptive to the influences about him, that he can keep his spirit open to the subtle contacts of life which make for spiritual growth and development. Men cannot see God except as they are responsive to their fellow-men, except as they have kept up the spirit of understanding, the spirit of comradeship, the spirit of humor, except as they have learned to play the team game. Very many of the messages that come to us of life eternal come to us through human contacts in our every-day life. I believe a proper development of play is vital to the whole spiritual history of our race.

I am also deeply concerned that the relationship of our movement to the churches should always be close. Of course, it must be just as close to the Hebrew and to the Roman Catholic as to the Protestant. But it is surely disastrous when there comes to be any thought that there is a question between us and the churches. I am enthusiastic over what has been done in helping church leaders to train themselves for play leadership so that they can use play not only within their own church groups but also for community purposes.

I do believe profoundly that the church exists for the community and for the Kingdom of God rather than for its own up-building, and that it is necessary for us to try to help our church friends to share in the wider life of the community, not for the sake of gain to their own institution but for the sake of gain to the Kingdom of God. If there be any question about the attitude of our workers on this whole question, we ought to make sure that the problem is taken up at Atlantic City.

H. S. BRAUCHER

Book Reviews

TOWN AND COUNTRY SERIES. Regional surveys of social, religious and economic conditions in twenty-six representative counties. Published by the Committee on Social and Religious Surveys, 111 Fifth Ave., New York City

These twelve volumes of surveys, eight of which are now ready, present a cross-section of the life of rural America. It has never before been possible to accumulate even partial material upon so wide an area. One thousand county surveys of the Interchurch World Movement were scrutinized and compared, and three hundred of them were selected for careful study and tabulation. Twenty-six counties were finally chosen as representative of the nine major regions of the United States and were intensively surveyed.

The series includes the first studies of the kind ever made of conditions in the South and in the Range country. Individual volumes vary in price from \$.35 to \$1.75. The entire series of twelve volumes may be obtained at the special price of \$9.75 upon direct application to the Committee on Social and Religious Surveys.

Geo. H. Doran & Co. has recently published for the Drama League of America three Biblical dramas.

THE SIN OF AHAB. By Anna Jane Harnwell. An exceedingly dramatic presentation, in one act of the Old Testament story of Ahab who coveted Naboth's vineyard and of Jezebel his Queen, whose cruelty and selfishness brought evil upon his house. Definite directions for stage setting and costumes are given by the author. Price 50c.

CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. By Tracy D. Mygatt. An elaborate Biblical play in three acts. The bondage of the Children of Israel in Egypt is the theme and the principal characters include: Moses; Miriam, his sister; Aaron, their brother; Zipporah, Moses' wife; Dathan, a Hebrew slave; Pharaoh, King of Egypt; and Thermuthis, his daughter. The suggestions for staging the play are given in a Foreword by Elizabeth B. Grimball. Price 75c.

JUDAS ISCARIOT. By Charlotte Gleason. A Biblical drama arranged in a prologue and three acts. The present time is linked to the time of Christ through the prologue which introduces an American business man in love with a young woman of the present day who gained a vision during her work in France. The action of the play introduces the characters of Judas Iscariot, Miriam, the daughter of Nicodemus, five disciples, the Centurion, Tabitha—a poor widow, and the voice of the Nazarene. Any number of extras are used for soldiers and the people of Jerusalem. The words of the Bible which are used throughout, add great beauty to the play. Price 50c.

Clara Fitch, chairman of the Religious Drama Committee of the Drama League of America, has given excellent introductions to the three plays.

COMMUNITY: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY. By R. M. Maciver, D. Phil, Associate Professor of Political Science in the University of Toronto. Published by Macmillan & Co., Limited, St. Martin's Street, London.

A serious and scholarly study of the nature and fundamental laws of social life is presented in this volume. "I have entitled the work *Community* because that term expresses best the object which social science as such endeavors to study. It is in community, the common life, that the interests represented by the specific social sciences are bound together, made integral, and thus amenable to a more comprehensive science." The book analyzes at length the elements and structure of community from a sociological standpoint, sets forth the laws of the development of community, and presents a

final "synthesis." "We have now seen the unity that underlies all the forms of communal development. It is the unity which life, if we seek deeply enough, always reveals. . . . Socialization and individualization develop *pari passu*. . . . Blind impulses are superseded by conscious forces, whereupon it appears that much that was blind in its operation—blind to us whom it impelled—was yet not meaningless, but continuous with what now reveals itself as our own conscious purpose. If that purpose grows still clearer, the movement of community will become more straightforward, toward an age for which the records of this present time will be a memory of 'old, unhappy far-off things.'"

SOCIETY AND ITS PROBLEMS. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY. By Grove Samuel Dow, Professor of Sociology in Bangor University, Published by Thomas Y. Crowell, New York. Price \$2.75.

This book discusses the definitions of sociology and certain fundamental problems. It presupposes no previous training in the subject and for this reason will probably prove interesting to the general reader who is interested in the problems confronting modern society. The author recognizes the place of play and recreation in modern society. Discussing the effect of nature upon man he says: "Even games and sports have been determined by geographical location. In the colder regions strenuous sports are indulged in, from the necessity to keep warm. The favorite games of the temperate zone are football, baseball, tennis, running, jumping and similar games demanding muscular energy. In the tropics, exercise is not only not demanded but is irksome; hence recreation takes the form of inactivity, resting and avoidance of effort. We find Hindus and Chinese looking down upon Europeans because they indulge in violent sports, asking if it were not possible to hire coolies to play tennis or football and thus avoid the strenuous exercise; for them recreation is to sit still and do nothing."

THE THREE THANKSGIVINGS, a November Humoresque, by Faith Van Valkenburgh Vilas, is a comedy in three scenes with short prologue and epilogue. One setting. 12 adults, and 18 children. About one hour. The purpose of the comedy is to show that the modern Thanksgiving with its tendency to selfish indulgence is not half so much fun as one wherein the host brings to his table the lonely and less fortunate ones filling their souls with cheer and their bodies with wholesome food. In the prologue November calls upon Romance to weave an appropriate tale. Romance shows a modern family planning a party of rich influential guests. Ethel, the youngest daughter, falls asleep and to her appear the Three Thanksgivings, Past, Present, Future. Past shows her the First Thanksgiving, Present the selfish feast planned by her family. In this is introduced the dance of the Viands,—full of humor and comedy. Ethel, disgusted with the selfishness displayed, turns to Future, hoping for something better. Future tells her it rests with herself what the next Thanksgiving shall be. She chooses to invite all the poor hungry ones and Future discloses herself then to be the Spirit of Love and Service. Ethel tells her dream on waking and the family fall in with her plan. Then follows the short epilogue. The play is original in treatment, with a delightful vein of humor, it is intended for young and old, both on the stage and in the audience. A distinctly **COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**. Obtained from Community Service (Incorporated), 315 Fourth Ave., New York City, price 25 cents

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A Juvenile County Festival

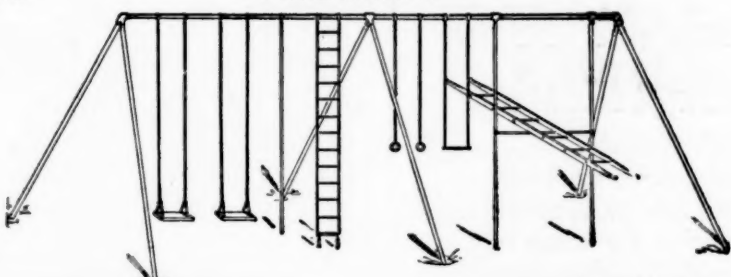
On festival day in Chester County, Pennsylvania, boys and girls from all the schools in the county shine their shoes and pack their lunch boxes and set out for the West Chester State Normal School. There is a friendly rivalry between schools on that day, and every child is ready to do his utmost to help his school win points. Dorothy who can write beautiful sounding things, wears out several pencils preparing for the composition contest. George never could do compositions, but words of even five syllables don't "stick" him, so he enters the spelling contest. Bill has been practising the running broad jump in his back yard for weeks. Loretta bakes the best bread in her home economics class, and in the specimen she enters for the baking contest, unbelievably crisp and light, rests one of her school's chief hopes.

At the seventh annual play festival there were enough kinds of contests to give expression to every interest or talent that school children might have. First there were literary events, including declamation contests and composition contests. Contests in spelling, arithmetic, typewriting, penmanship and singing gave schools a chance to show in what subjects they particularly shone.

Next came field athletic events of all kinds, governed by the Amateur Athletic Union rules. Among the events were one hundred yard dashes for high and elementary school boys, fifty yard dashes for girls, one mile, one-half mile and one-quarter mile relays, high jump, running broad jump and chinning. The athletic badge tests for girls issued by the Playground and Recreation Association of America, were conducted in the gymnasium. The girls worked not only for themselves, but for their schools, because each test passed meant one additional point. From 9.30 to 1.00 an exhibition of games took place on the campus.

The contests in manual-industrial arts, home economics and agriculture showed that the Chester County of the future will not lack farmers, housewives and artisans both scientific and practical. The manual-industrial contests included bird house building, shop exhibit and drawing contests. A canning and jelly making contest was one of the features of the home economics division. Tempting cakes, pies, loaves of bread and examples of fine stitchery were exhibited in the baking and sewing contests. Seed identifi-

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COMMUNITY SERVICE, (Incorporated)

315 4th Avenue, New York City

cation and poultry judging contests gave youthful agriculturists opportunities to use their experience and their judgment. Both boys and girls entered the corn judging, corn stringing and seed corn germination contests. The judging of the seed corn germination was done by school-boys.

At 2:30 p. m., when all the scheduled contests had been run off, the big chapel bell rang. This was the signal for the children to form into line, six in a row. Districts lined up alphabetically—

Atglen, Avondale, and so on, right through to Valley Forge and Westtown and the other W's. They were an eager army, banner-laden, with uniformed Boy Scouts directing the march. After the entire procession had passed the grand stand, all the teachers or group leaders took positions at intervals large enough to permit their flocks to play games. A pistol shot rang out, and the children quickly broke their orderly ranks and, forming into circles about the leaders, joined in lively motion games or folk dances.

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Following the games a class of Normal School students danced the Italian Tarentella in costume. Everyone helped form a semicircle in front of the grandstand to sing the Chester County song, which is written to the tune of "America the Beautiful." Then came a breathless and long anticipated moment. The semicircle stood on tiptoe as the judges' spokesman announced the winners of the contests and the trophies were awarded.

Balancing the Playground and Recreation Center Program (Continued from Page 265)

To test growing physical and mental powers

The pencil marks on the door frame of the average home indicating the height of the children from year to year is a simple illustration of what I have in mind. Strength, skill, suppleness, endurance, ability to stand pain must needs be periodically tested. Provision should be made for boys and girls to compete against their own past records as well as to compete against others.



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All the meetings, however, cannot be held at the community building as was shown by the crowds that attended the pageants and playdays held in several counties. Three to five thousand people attended the playdays held in Berkeley and Hampshire Counties and elsewhere. Literally every person, man, woman and child, in the community gathered together for these playdays. Similar pageants based on local historical incidents have been worked out sometimes with the women, children and men, and sometimes only with children, as in Mineral County and scores of other places. Five thousand people saw the pageant in Mineral County.

Alabama Mixer

(Continued from Page 270)

leading around the lady of the couple, starting stepping in between her and her partner, turns to the left and comes back to original place of facing couple. (One half of figure eight). Her partner follows her. 4 measures.

(h) "Lady around gent and gent don't go"

Head lady continues the figure eight by step-

ping in between couple again but this time she circles around the man, while her partner waits for her facing the couple. 4 measures.

(i) "Swing your opposite"

Gentlemen swing opposite ladies. 4 measures.

(j) "Now your own"

Gentlemen swing own partners. 4 measures.

(k) "Next couple out"

Couple 2 repeat all starting with (e). Then couple 3 and 4 do likewise.

What Unique Activities Does Your Playground Conduct?

(Continued from Page 288)

playgrounds conducted by the Park Department was held each week what was known as *Neighborhood Night*, with a program of social dances, water fests, dramatics, folk dancing and community singing.

Syracuse has made a feature of the maintenance of skating rinks in the parks and playgrounds. Vacant spaces were flooded and the surface of the ice was given daily attention and kept in the best possible condition. Rinks were open from ten a. m. to ten p. m.

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Camps for Building Citizenship
(Continued from Page 272)

to the camps of the boys and girls. In several counties permanent buildings have been erected on the camp sites and the women feel that they need community buildings in which they can meet just as the boys and girls are meeting in their camps.

Thus in more than half a dozen counties, fre-

quently ten to twenty miles from railroads, farm women are taking the lead in raising funds to erect community buildings which will be the rallying place for the community. They have found that community buildings suitable for their needs are virtually unknown. So they have secured the services of the best architects in that section and have plans drawn for buildings which meet their own needs. One of these buildings has been built and others will be put up this year.

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